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NEW BELGIUM BREWING

In my wallet is a tattered Fat Tire label which I've had for 11 years. Ever since my first one, I immediately fell in love with this refreshing ale and the company's eco-conscience ways. Amongst friends, this label has led to many discussions such as,

"Is it possible to jump a recycling bin on a banana seat bike?"

(Yes, but next time don't pedal so fast!) Thanks Fat Tire for making recycling and biking so much fun.

Frances M. of South Carolina

A lot of people have discovered the tasty joy bottled and canned in Fat Tire Amber Ale. Join them on newbelgium.com and enjoy the ride!

NEWS OPINION

LETTERS

Imperialist and Privileged

I am writing to say that Rachel Swan's continued misappropriation of Main Attraktionz and the local hip-hop scene in general, is not appreciated.

In this story she goes on about the "white privilege" dynamic and invokes a series of tropes that depict Friendzone as opportunists benefitting from Main Attraktionz in a predatory and imperialist fashion. Such a claim is not only plausible, but also expected, given the relationship between hip-hop and issues of race. However, the fact that Ms. Swan made no effort to ask Squadda or Mondre (the members of Main Attraktionz) what they thought is the only imperialist and privileged thing I see happening. She fails to value the most important input of all on the matter: that of the Main Attraktionz themselves.

Had this been an isolated incident it would be excusable, but at this point it is obvious that Ms. Swan does not have the best interest of Oakland's vibrant rap scene on her agenda. I personally contacted her no less than a dozen times pitching stories on the Main Attraktionz throughout 2011, and she only responded to me once. And her response was "admittedly sent in error." Ms. Swan should not be allowed to write about what we do. She is reckless, uneducated, and clearly harbors some kind of personal beef against Friendzone in the least — and perhaps more of us.

Zachary C. Moldof, San Francisco

5/23

The Traffic Question

I'm writing to explain more about how relocating the proposed VA facility somewhere else in Alameda Point could reduce traffic-related impacts. This is a fair question that merits a clearer response. The current proposed location for the VA facility would be in the middle of the open space expanses where the wetlands and waterfowl are located and where there are currently proposals to create parkland and a wildlife refuge. The presence of high volumes of traffic cutting through these open space expanses (to reach the VA facility) would adversely impact (via noise and exhaust) the waterfowl that now use these open expanses as habitat and would fragment and visually degrade the parkland potential of these open expanses. In contrast, moving the proposed VA facility to where the Berkeley Labs had been proposed (near Seaplane Lagoon) would keep the road and traffic out of these open space expanses, thereby avoiding the traffic- and road related adverse impacts on waterfowl and park usage. It is correct, however, that even with this alternative VA location, attention would still need to be given to the impacts of getting VA facility employees and users into Alameda and out to Alameda Point.

Paul Kibel, Co-Director
Center on Urban Environmental Law
at Golden Gate University School of Law

5/16

What About 104.1?

The paper is called the *East Bay Express*. How could you not mention the pirate radio station in Berkeley? 104.1 FM serves the entire East Bay. Tune in on the airwaves or go to the website to catch the stream.

Melinda Zapata, Oakland

Eco Watch 5/16

UC and Big Ag

I would like to bring up another point: If the university made $182 million dollars off of its patented technologies alone, why was an 82 percent student fee increase narrowly averted (by student protests) last year? The university claims that these funds are in some part put back into the general fund. However, with the continuous increases in tuition, my faith in the truth of this claim is quite withered.

In response to the question of intellectual responsibility, it is a tall and unfounded claim to say that basic research is wholly question and not profit-driven. The fact that some of the researchers are cited as the inventors of the technology patented points directly to the profit motive.

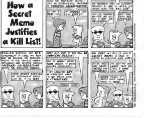
For me, the real crux of the argument is that the researchers have repeatedly insisted that their research has nothing to do with genetic modification of organisms and the agendas of big agribusiness, despite the fact that they must know what their research has been applied to and helped create in the past. Whether or not they agree with the agendas of agribusiness is not really the pertinent question at hand. The pertinent question is whether or not what they create is used by big agribusiness, and while the researchers claim that what they create does not support big agribusiness, a look at the patents and invention rights shows a much different story.

Kelly Jarrett, Berkeley

5/10

The Good Old Days

I gave up on the A's when Lew Wolff said he wanted to go to Fremont. I do at-


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
How a Secret Memo Justifies a Kill List!
TARGETED ASSASSINATION
SO CAN I READ IT?
OF COURSE NOT -- I'M SECRET!
THE KILL LIST
UNILATERAL!
BUT WHAT ABOUT DUE PROCESS?
INTERNAL DELIBERATIONS
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tend every Raiders game, though, and they have essentially priced alcohol out of the game-day equation. I'm forced to consume mass quantities before I go inside. If I'm not mistaken, the beer prices are about $8.75 and if you can find the Budweiser I think it's $5, but why bother? The lines are hella long, you miss half the quarter, and they'll only sell you two at a time. I'll stick to the cocktail stand in section 106, where my seats are. Those ladies have been pouring there for over fifteen years and can they make a drink. Best bang for the buck. Ah, the good old days, when they served you beers at your seat and you could get buckets of beer at the concession stands for $3.75. Hey, wait a minute, these are the good old days!

Jim Richardson, Cherryland

[illegible]

Biogas Is Better

The *Express* is right to criticize the California Energy Commission's decision to suspend certification of new biogas suppliers. The commission's rationale is bizarre. Its concern about where the gas comes from should not hold us back on utilization of this resource. Virgin gas is "dirty gas," and therefore has to be measured and kept separate, providing the producer with some kind of "black mark" (like a detention slip)? Give me a break!

Instead of being concerned about reducing "greenhouse gas emissions," the commission should be embracing biogas, which, if not used, will be vented into the atmosphere as a pollutant. Of the alternative electric supply sources mentioned in the article, only biogas is truly renewable. Unless or until we stop putting organics into our garbage, landfills will be venting methane into the future. The gas is drawn off landfills continuously every passing second at minimal cost. Wind turbines and solar collectors require expensive apparatus that will never pay for itself due to extreme capital cost and the meager amount of electricity generated.

The commission's stance — not allowing companies to deliver virgin gas and biogas in the same pipeline — gives the lie to its commitment to improve our environment. The commission is more concerned with social engineering than reality. This must change.

Steve Tabor, Oakland

[illegible]

Pay to Play in the City Attorney's Office?

I wasn't going to respond to the *Express* column on my term limits proposal until I learned that my opponent for Oakland city attorney [Barbara Parker] was telling people to read your column when she was asking them for money.

You argued that Oaklanders should not be able to vote on my proposal for term limits for Oakland city councilmembers, because it might give me an unfair advantage in the city attorney's race, in that I could appear on term limits campaign literature.

Term limits were favored by 68 percent of Oakland voters in a recent poll. If term limits get on the ballot, they will pass easily without needing much of a campaign. As far as I know, no money has been raised for a term-limits initiative. No candidate for city attorney is even close to the cap on contributions. To paint a picture of my candidacy rolling in misbegotten dough is a fantasy.

I'm proud of my fifteen-year record as a city councilmember, including my recent proposal for term limits. And I certainly do hope that the people of Oakland will support me in my run for city attorney based on my qualifications and my accomplishments. Is there anything unfair about my continuing to work hard as a representative of the people of Oakland as long as I'm in office? Certainly not. Oaklanders should demand that of all of their elected representatives.

While your column is full of conspiracy theories and baseless assumptions, there is a substantial story on campaign contributions in the city attorney race that does involve real money. Most of the contributions to my opponent's campaign come from three sources: the 35 attorneys who are city attorney employees, the law firms that the city attorney's office hires as outside counsel to the tune of more than $6 million a year in taxpayers' money, and beneficiaries in large-scale settlements by the city that the city attorney's office has recommended.

This is clearly becoming a "Pay to Play" city attorney's office, something many have suspected for years.

This wouldn't be a hard story to write, since campaign contributions and city settlements are public information. A journalist who wanted to do an unbiased, fact-based story on campaign contributions could have a field day with it. Is that you?

Jane Brunner
Oakland city councilwoman and candidate for Oakland city attorney

Robert Gammon Responds

Ms. Brunner, as you know, no newspaper in the East Bay has followed campaign contributions in Oakland politics more closely than the *Express* during the past decade. As such, I'm fully aware that City Attorney Barbara Parker, your opponent in the city attorney's race this November, has received campaign donations from employees in the city attorney's office, from law firms hired by her office, and by lawyers who have won large settlements from the city. But what you fail to mention is that you also have received many similar campaign contributions that raise questions about pay-to-play politics.

Records show, for example, that in your campaign for city attorney you have received a total of $1,400 in donations from the owners of B&R Vehicle Processing, which has long owned the exclusive monopoly contract on towing and storing cars for the City of Oakland. It also should be noted that, during your fifteen years on the city council, you repeatedly voted to extend B&R's contract without putting it out to bid.

You also received $700, the maximum contribution allowed under city law, from Waste Management, which holds the city's garbage-collecting contract that you voted for. You also took a $500 donation from Douglas Parking, which operates city-owned garages. Plus, you received $1,300 from the Oakland First PAC, which is run by Ken Houston of Turner Group Construction, which has vied for a public contract at the old Army Base.

Among your other contributions was a $700 donation from the Tidewater Group,

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which is co-run by Ana Chretien, owner of ABC Security, which has maintained private security contracts with the city over the past two decades. Tidewater also is co-run by Oakland lobbyist Carlos Plazola, who represents numerous entities that seek special deals from the city. You've also received $700 from lobbyist Lily Hu.

Unfortunately, we don't know more about Plazola and Hu's clients and what they want from the city because you and the council have voted to gut the city's political watchdog — the Public Ethics Commission. It also should be noted that you have voted repeatedly over the years to slash the city attorney's office budget, forcing the office to lay off lawyers, thereby requiring taxpayers to hire expensive outside counsel to defend the city in litigation.

As such, your contention that Barbara Parker has done something untoward while your hands are clean is hypocritical. Moreover, as a longtime city councilmember, if you were truly worried about pay-to-play politics in Oakland, you could have easily introduced legislation to ban contributions from businesses and people who do business with the city. But you haven't.

As for the column in question, I stand by my opinion that the council should not vote to put the term limits measure on the ballot unless you and your campaign manager Larry Tramutola (whom you have already paid at least $10,000) agree not to participate in or benefit from the ballot measure campaign.

[illegible]

Steampunk Republicans?

When I first heard the phrase "Restore Our Future" on the radio, my mind did one of those time blips, causing a mental wormhole that sent me into oxymoronic deep space. How can one restore a future? "Highly illogical," Dr. Spock would say.

"Restore Our Future" is the name of a Super PAC (Political Action Committee) created to support Mitt Romney in the upcoming presidential election. As a Super PAC, "Restore our Future" is permitted to raise and spend unlimited amounts of contributions under the terms of the Citizen United Supreme Court decision of 2010. As of April 2012, it had spent $40 million. (That same Supreme Court defined a corporation as a "person" [which makes about as much sense to me as the phrase "Restore Our Future"]. The dictionary definition of the word "person" is "an individual human being." I'd bet 99 percent of the American public would agree with that definition.)

But I finally figured it out. With "Restore Our Future," the Republican Party is actually going for the Steampunk vote. Yes, you heard it here first.

Joking aside. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, "Steampunk" began as a literary genre and has developed into a popular subculture incorporating elements of speculative and science fiction, fantasy, alternate history, and horror. (Special thanks to DeWitt Cheng's article on Steampunk "Forward to the Past" in a recent edition of the *East Bay Monthly*.)

Steampunkers are identified by wearing whimsical Victorian clothing and accessories, recycling, and the invention of clockwork and alternative mechanisms. They are committed to the creative process and sharing information freely, not holding on tightly to their knowledge and processes.

So far, Steampunk is most visible on the Internet, at Burning Man, and at the Maker Faire here in the Bay Area. Inventors and tinkerers are the backbone of the movement; writers and artists are the mouthpieces. A soon-to-come documentary film entitled *Vintage Tomorrows* describes Steampunk as "retro-futurism."

Steampunk sci-fi author Cherie Priest defines Steampunk as "the science fiction of a future that never happened." Sound familiar: "Restore Our Future"?

Steampunkers very consciously use contradictory temporal language — to make a point about what has happened in the past and what is happening now, and what can happen — differently — in the future.

Here's the rub: If the Republicans are trying to restore a future, they need to explain the future they want to restore. And how in the hell do they intend to do it? Time travel?

This is what the Republicans don't get: The future isn't about repeating what went before; it's about learning from the past and pursuing different options. No wonder the Republicans are still fumbling on how to promote their candidates in cyberspace. No wonder Newt Gingrich wants colonies on the moon to "harvest" its riches.

Einstein said it best: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

Much of Steampunk fiction is based on what every person age twelve (and up) realizes: Our human civilization is facing annihilation due to our own collective (corporate) technological greed, immorality, and arrogance.

Steampunk is based on the deep relationship of individual human beings (persons) with technology. It studies the past and considers alternative realities. It's about the "how," not the bottom line.

Sue Silva, Oakland

Corrections

In our May 23 music story "Inside the Friendzone," we incorrectly stated that both James Lawrence and Dylan Reznick left Destroy Tokyo before the band became Religious Girls. In fact, Reznick was part of the rechristened band.

A photo of Willow Rosenthal in our May 30 Lectures and Lit picks should have been credited to Sarah Henry of Berkeleyside.

In the May 30 installment of Last Call, "Pops on Hops," we erroneously stated that Bear Revolution has been open for three years. It has in fact been open since February 2010.

We had several errors in our May 30 music article "Speaking Tango with The Garufa." We incorrectly stated that the band formed in 2002; it actually formed in 2001. Also, we traced the origin of electro-tango to the Eighties, when it actually started around 2000. We also misspelled the venue name Peña Pachamama. ●

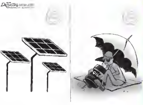
Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

DESPITE WHAT ROMNEY SAYS, SOLAR POWER IS THE ANSWER

The Republican nominee says green-energy subsidies are a waste of money but the explosive growth of solar in Germany is proving him wrong.

By Robert Gammon



During **Mitt Romney**'s surprise visit last week to the East Bay, the Republican presidential nominee made it clear that renewable-energy subsidies will be at the center of his campaign. At the shuttered Solyndra solar plant in Fremont, Romney characterized public investment in green energy as an assault on free enterprise and an example of big government excesses. The free market, Romney contends, doesn't need help from Uncle Sam, and Solyndra was the number-one "failure" of President **Barack Obama**'s first term.

However, as much as Romney and the Republicans want to demonize public subsidies for green energy, the truth is that they still pale in comparison to the taxpayer giveaways for aging, polluting industries like fossil fuels and nuclear power. Indeed, even though Obama's Energy Department made the wrong bet on Solyndra and its expensive solar technology, oil and gas companies currently receive $4 billion in annual subsidies from the US government — and that figure doesn't include the hundreds of billions of dollars we have spent in the past two decades on foreign wars whose true intent was to protect our oil supply.

There are other hidden costs as well. **Paul Epstein**, director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, has estimated that the public health costs associated with coal power, from mining to air pollution, could be as much as $500 billion annually in this country. Moreover, if the true costs of oil, gas, and coal — including the subsidies and the costs to our health and environment — were added to the consumer price for these energy sources, then what we pay at the pump, not to mention on our monthly utility bills, would be unaffordable.

In truth, the United States and other industrialized nations have a long, storied tradition of subsidizing energy exploration, development, and production. Nuclear power, the major new energy source of the last century, absorbed $50 billion in public subsidies in the US from 1973 to 2003. Subsidies such as these have made our daily energy costs much less expensive. And so the idea that we shouldn't make the same investments in green energy, and that renewables are now receiving unprecedented and unwarranted public help, is not grounded in reality.

Obama, in fact, deserves credit for his efforts to end the $4 billion in annual giveaways to Big Oil and Gas, rightly noting that the prime beneficiaries of this taxpayer largesse have been reaping record profits and don't need our money. Obama's efforts, of course, likely will fail this year because of staunch opposition in Congress from Republicans who also happen to receive huge campaign donations from the oil and gas industry. Romney, not surprisingly, also wants to keep the oil and gas subsidies in place — apparently because in his world only companies that make billions in profits while polluting our planet and harming our health deserve government handouts.

Romney and the Right also contend that green energy is just a pipe dream and that it will never supply our needs. As a result, investing in it, they say, is just a waste of money. But late last month, Germany proved that this argument has no merit either. According to Reuters, Germany has installed so much solar power in recent years that it produced one-third of the country's electricity needs on a weekday and supplied half of the total electricity used on Saturday, May 26. **Norbert Allnoch**, director of the Institute of the Renewable Energy Industry, said that a whopping 22 gigawatts of solar power fed into Germany's national grid that day. "This shows Germany is capable of meeting a large share of its electricity needs with solar power," Allnoch said. "It also shows Germany can do with fewer coal-burning power plants, gas-burning plants, and nuclear plants."

Big Crime Bust in Oakland

The announcement last week that a coordinated effort involving Oakland police and undercover federal agents had resulted in the arrests of sixty violent criminals in the city was welcome news. Oakland Police Chief **Howard Jordan** said that operation Gideon III netted the capture of the "worst of the worst" in the city. It was also good to see US Attorney **Melinda Haag** involved in a positive effort to reduce violent crime in Oakland, rather than unnecessarily harassing law-abiding medical cannabis operators. Hopefully, the big bust will have a real impact on crime in the city.

This year, unfortunately, has been a rough one in Oakland in terms of violent crime. Through May 27, violent crime was up 20 percent in the city, and homicides were up by 15 percent compared to the same period last year. In some categories, violent crime has skyrocketed — rapes are up 29 percent over last year, robberies by 31 percent, burglaries by 35 percent, and arson by 52 percent.

The *Oakland Tribune* reported that Jordan said violent crime was already going down since the big bust, and that federal agents said the operation resulted in the arrests of criminals involved in Oakland's notorious drug gangs, which have been responsible over the years for a significant amount of crime in the city. But the question is: Will the criminal activity by these gangs be affected over the long term, or will other gang members merely replace the people arrested? Obviously, only time will tell.

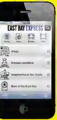
Still, nabbing violent criminals is a positive step. As the *Express* has reported, OPD has had a miserable record over the years in terms of solving crimes and capturing lawbreakers. Hopefully, operation Gideon III will help the department refocus its efforts on solving crimes rather than patrolling the streets and harassing young people of color.

Also, Oakland police and city leaders deserve credit for keeping Gideon III under wraps until the undercover operation was completed. It would have been very easy for Mayor **Jean Quan**, who has taken a beating in the press for her 100 Block crime plan, to have revealed the coordinated federal effort as evidence that her administration was working hard to address violent crime in Oakland. But she waited and endured the criticism, allowing the operation to conclude without the public knowing about it.

Finally, as the city's economic fortunes brighten and tax revenues increase, Quan, City Administrator **Deanna Santana**, and the city council should revisit the issue of increasing the size of the police department. OPD simply does not have enough cops to deal with all the violent crime in the city, and city leaders need to find creative ways to address that issue. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com



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LEGALIZATION NATION

THE DOWNWARD DOGS OF THE DRUG WAR

The best dispensaries offer free yoga, legal clinics, and even hyperbaric chamber therapy. Enjoy!

By David Downs

Imagine if the health insurance industry's $15 billion in annual profits had to flow back to its customers in the form of free back rubs, yoga classes, and legal advice. That right-wing nightmare of hippie socialism isn't pure fiction. It's reality in at least one health-care sector: weed.

The federal tax code, California law, and guidelines established by former Attorney General Jerry Brown have molded many medical cannabis dispensaries into something akin to community health centers. Large regulated clubs in the Bay Area and beyond must operate as nonprofits, discharging net revenue in the form of patient services. The best ones go nuts with the concept.

Harborside Health Center in Oakland, for example, has free yoga, massage, and various talk-therapy classes. San Francisco Patient Resource Center offers free meditation classes, legal advice, and jam nights. Even at Hercules Health Center in the East Bay, patients can see a chiropractor or, better yet, try out the dispensary's hyperbaric chamber.

Yup. Hercules Health Center has a hyperbaric chamber — a human-size capsule that can be pressurized to levels many times higher than the Earth's atmosphere. Such chambers are primarily used to treat decompression sickness, gangrene, and carbon monoxide poisoning. Since there's not that many medical weed-using scuba divers with gangrene and CO poisoning, we're guessing it's used for other illnesses, from multiple sclerosis to migraines.

We had twice heard about Hercules Health Center's chamber so we decided to take a drive. Twenty minutes north of Oakland, up Highway 80, the town of 20,000 is easy to overlook. Hercules Health Center embraces that vibe. Just off of John Muir Parkway, the popular dispensary is invisibly ensconced in the back of a generic medical office park.

You can't even smell weed in the crisp air-conditioned hallways of the two-story warren. But in the back corner of 500 Alfred Nobel Drive, in Suite 195, a chiropractor's office door was open, and Hercules Health Center staff guided new patients through intake. Return visitors checked in with a smile. A UPS guy dropped off a delivery with a grin.

Behind the reception desk, club specialists conduct thirty-minute massages on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-6 p.m. The chiropractor is in Thursdays, 1-6 p.m. Oxygen therapy and the hyperbaric therapy is available every day after 1 p.m.

Since we didn't have the bends, and it wasn't 1 o'clock yet, we didn't get a session in the chamber, though we've heard good things. Next door, Hercules Health Center takes the chiropractor's office feel and adds some weed. Rasta clothing and jewelry is for sale, and two counters sport the club's selection of edibles, concentrates, and three tiers of flowers. The place is cool, clean, well lit, and quiet. Strong air conditioning eliminates any odors.

Which brings us to the weed: lab-tested, pricey, and limited. Top-shelf eighth-ounces are $60. Ouch. A 20-percent-off new patient discount brings a bag to $48 — cash-only, with no ATM on-site. Another ouch. The club rewards early birds with a free pre-roll for visiting 10 a.m. to noon, but the joint is made of club shake.

The top-shelf is legit, though. They had exemplary cuts of the Bay Area's indica hybrid XJ-13, which mixes hit sativa Jack Herer and mysterious indica G-13. We saw Ken Estes GDP, but the club's Blueberry OG had the best nose. Reeking of berry, the big, dark, dense, resiny NorCal knock-out strain has been in development since the Seventies. It relaxes muscles, quells anxiety, and stirs appetite. Will cause drowsiness.

With Berkeley Patients Group closed, thousands of East Bay patients are fanning out and some are ending up satisfied at Hercules Health Center. Weedmaps.com gives it 4.5 out of 5 stars on 106 reviews. The club even throws in a free bottle of "Xternal," a topical cannabis spray.

The roughly two-year-old dispensary is a union shop under the UFCW Local 5 and a member of the Hercules Chamber of Commerce. It also seems to be operating despite a 2006 city ban. Amid the raids in Oakland and protests in Sacramento, Hercules Health Center has seemingly been overlooked, for now. The interesting reality is that the biggest, most well-regulated clubs — the ones with the most free services — have been targeted first by the feds.

Seeds & Stems

A California bill to regulate dispensaries statewide passed a huge hurdle, Thursday, May 31, when it cleared the state assembly. Assemblyman Tom Ammiano's bill to create a seed-to-sale permit system for medical pot now heads to the state senate for debate in June and July. Patient groups like Americans for Safe Access lobbied heavily for the legislation. They believe more statewide regulation will assuage US attorneys, who are raiding and suing dispensaries and farms. Colorado's much tighter medical marijuana program has drawn less federal ire than California's, activists note.

Tom Ammiano

Berkeley Patients Group — the major East Bay dispensary closed by federal threats May 1 — has begun serving collective members as a delivery service. The club announced the restart of service with a letter to patients on May 29. Berkeley Patients Group is delivering seven days a week, and lists its menu online as well as in an app for smartphones. A number of persecuted dispensaries in the Bay Area have closed their doors and gone delivery-only since the federal crackdown began in October. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

UNMASKING THE ART OF LIVING

An ex-teacher is on trial for revealing the secrets of an alleged cult. And in what may be a precedent for free-speech rights, he won't have to reveal his identity.

By Rachel Swan

Very little is known about the writer Skywalker, other than that he was once an adherent of the international spiritual organization Art of Living Foundation and is now one of its most vociferous critics. Although Art of Living, which has outlets in the Bay Area, including the East Bay, presents itself as a charitable organization that specializes in health and stress reduction, Skywalker argues that, at best, it's just an offshoot of transcendental mysticism with a veneer of being ecumenical. At worst, it's both a tax shelter and a cult, "masquerading as a humanitarian organization."

On his WordPress blog, "Beyond the Art of Living," Skywalker impugns the organization with gusto. He accuses its practitioners of lying, brainwashing, and hurting the very people they purport to help. He characterizes "His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar," the Indian self-styled prophet who founded Art of Living in 1981, as a false guru. He deems its acolytes as victims of mental abuse. His tone is patient and measured, but his criticism is exhaustive. And he's gotten traction. A post last week garnered nineteen comments in three days. The "About" page boasts 148 comments — and counting.

Initially, Skywalker hoped his blog would steer away potential converts, but now he has become a lightning rod in what could be a precedent-setting First Amendment case. Art of Living has sued him for damages, and while a federal judge has ruled that a pared-down version of the case can go to trial, the judge also said that Skywalker could remain anonymous. "As far as I know," said First Amendment attorney Joshua Koltun, who is representing Skywalker, "that's unprecedented."

When Art of Living officials first discovered Skywalker's blog, they tried everything within their power to destroy it — first by filing a subpoena for the author's personal information in an apparent attempt to out his identity and then by suing him for alleged "trade secret" violations. Because Art of Living doesn't actually have an airtight libel case against Skywalker, its leaders have gone after him for posting what the organization claims is classified material and for allegedly hurting their business. In short, Art of Living officials found in the laws protecting commerce, a vehicle to try to suppress free speech.

It all started in the summer of 2010, when members of Art of Living got wind of "Beyond the Art of Living," and of a similar blog called "Leaving the Art of Living," which was penned by another defector, Klim. Both were hosted on Google's Blogger platform. Both bloggers had been teachers at the foundation, which gave them access to privileged documents and insider information. Klim used the information merely as background, but Skywalker went ahead and revealed what the organization said were secret documents. Most of these were primers on breathing techniques that the foundation had tried to commercialize (Skywalker argued that they weren't any different from common yoga practices and/or ways to hyperventilate). Some were teaching manuals. To an outsider they wouldn't seem all that special, yet they provided Art of Living with a legal avenue to try to stop Skywalker.

The foundation issued a takedown notice via its Indian chapter, Vyakti Vikas Kendra India (VVK India). In short order, Skywalker received a letter from WordPress saying that he had committed copyright infringement. Without a lawyer to challenge the case, he removed the offending material.

But the foundation's US chapter still decided to sue Klim and Skywalker anyway, alleging that during the two months it was posted, the manuals garnered enough page views (498, according to data tabulated by WordPress) to wreak economic damage on the organization, which normally sells its techniques for a fee. Moreover, the plaintiff alleged that some of the documents Skywalker had posted contained trade secrets.

The plaintiff's attorney, Karl S. Kronenberger, pointed it as no instance of two rogue employees distributing proprietary information in violation of the non-disclosure agreements that all teachers sign at Art of Living. He also said that since the notes had been published, the foundation had seen a precipitous drop in enrollment and a subsequent loss of revenue. Kronenberger also requested that Google and WordPress — which is hosted by a company called Automattic, Inc. — disclose the identity of bloggers Klim and Skywalker.

It isn't that unusual for big companies to file a suit and issue a subpoena to muzzle their critics, said Matt Zimmerman, a senior staff attorney at San Francisco's Electronic Frontier Foundation and co-author of an amicus brief in the case in defense of Klim and Skywalker. "In most cases the subpoena is just granted," he said, explaining that the court has no obligation to decide whether the complaint is legitimate or not, and in most cases, the defendant doesn't have the resources to fight it. "Frequently you'll wind up in a situation where nobody objects, and Google will simply turn over the [subscriber] information," he said. Usually that amounts to a Gmail or an IP address, which the company can then wield to get further identifying information. Many cases don't even get that far — usually the point of litigation is to expose the critic, and not proceed.

"THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE SITS THERE WITH A BAG OVER HIS HEAD," KOLTUN SAID OF HIS CLIENT, SKYWALKER, WHOM THE COURT SAID CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS. "IT MEANS HE JUST DOESN'T SHOW."

In this instance, though, Skywalker and Klim sought a First Amendment attorney, Koltun, who agreed to fight their case pro bono. (Koltun also successfully defended the *Express* in a libel suit waged by 2010 Oakland mayoral candidate Marcie Hodge.) In November of 2010, Koltun appealed a magistrate judge's decision to serve subpoenas on Google and Automattic, taking the case straight to Judge Lucy Koh in US district court. The lawsuit had begun with eight allegations leveled against both Klim and Skywalker — one count each of defamation, trade libel, copyright infringement, and disclosing trade secrets — but in a ruling last month, Koh threw out everything except the trade secrets claim against Skywalker, which she said had some validity.

However, she had previously made one important exception: that the case could proceed without unmasking Skywalker's identity. "That doesn't mean he sits there with a paper bag over his head," Koltun said. "It means he just doesn't *show*." In other words, the trade secrets suit can go to trial with Koltun representing the defendant's interests, and Skywalker blogging away from some other part of the world.

In a November 9 ruling denying Art of Living's request to unmask Skywalker and Klim's identities, Koh cited the 1995 Supreme Court case McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission, which deemed that an Ohio statute against anonymous campaign literature was unconstitutional. Koh wrote: "Insofar as Skywalker may communicate his message more openly or garner a larger audience by employing a pseudonym, unveiling his true identity diminishes the free exchange of ideas guaranteed by the Constitution." Moreover, she wrote, revealing Skywalker's identity could have a chilling effect on other critics of Art of Living.

Koh also noted an important difference between this case and previous Internet intellectual property suits, most of which had revolved around music downloading. When Sony Music sued forty unidentified defendants for illegally downloading and sharing files, the court decided that, while file-sharing might be marginally expressive (i.e., expressing the desire not to pay), it's not "seeking to communicate or convey an idea." Because Skywalker is accusing Art of Living of being a cult and a sham, and because his arguments pertain to religion and ethics, he's part of a much larger public discussion than the average music downloader. Thus, Koh concluded, the magistrate judge should have applied a more rigorous standard when choosing to grant the subpoena.

"It's rare for a court to come to this point where it finds that there's a valid cause of action and yet it keeps the identity of the defendant a secret," Zimmerman said. He also said the judge deserves "a lot of credit" for not acting arbitrarily or rewarding Art of Living before Skywalker is actually tried. Although her ruling might make the procedure more cumbersome, Zimmerman said, it's also fair. ●

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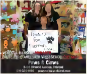
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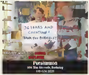
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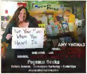
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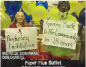
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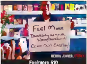
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Rabbits dig, chew and need lots of space to run and play. Ian Elwood

FEATURE

HOME IS WHERE THE BUNNY IS

A guide to keeping house rabbits.

By Ian Elwood

A furry blur slips from behind the coffee table, scampers across the living-room floor, makes a quick turn at the bookshelf and darts behind the couch. Seconds later, you hear a sound. *Dig, dig, dig.*

What are you doing back there? you ask, trying your best to sound authoritative. Silence. That is the sound of a rabbit laughing. And then, as if in response to your question: *Dig, dig, dig.* Rabbits have no respect for authority.

Bringing a domesticated rabbit into your home is somewhat of a political act. Often used to create profits for the pet industry, animal testing industry, fur industry, and meat industry, they rely on the whims of humans to survive. But adoption saves rabbits from a grisly fate. They make excellent house pets — if you know how to properly take care of them.

Having worked with rabbits for years at municipal animal shelters, animal rescue groups, and animal sanctuaries, I have rescued countless individuals from abuse and neglect. I share my apartment with several adopted rabbits, and am an educator for the House Rabbit Society. Yes, I also own bunny slippers.

Baby rabbits are docile, cute, and require only their mother's milk, but when they hit puberty, they start becoming "subversive." This is the point when the majority of rabbits are dumped, either at a shelter or outside. A spayed or neutered rabbit will be more social, easier to litter-box train, and will help reduce the number of orphaned rabbits.

Unfixed rabbits that are "liberated" outside can create a population explosion, if they aren't killed by predators first. There is also a consensus in the animal-rescue community is that there is no way to house a rabbit humanely outdoors. Backyard hutches leave rabbits susceptible to cold, heat, predation, abuse, neglect, vandalism, and theft. We see the same bad situations again and again.

If you want a pet bunny, visit your local shelter first. Adopted rabbits make great companions and thrive living indoors with a human family. Just like people, rabbits come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and orientations. They have their own unique personalities, so when you are ready to adopt, try to get to know the rabbits you meet as individuals. This will help you find one that is most compatible with your lifestyle. Don't worry about getting a "mutt." Reclaim the discourse; create your own breed name!

Basic needs include a litter box, timothy hay, water, fresh greens, a small cup of quality pellets once a day, regular vet checks, and lots of love. Adopting a single bunny is okay — so long as your new companion gets enough human attention — but ideally you want to bring a pair (or trio) into your home so that when you are not around, they have others to conspire with.

Living with a rabbit takes patience. They live eight to twelve years, and are just as much work as a cat or dog. Like any good roommate, rabbits won't leave the toothpaste unrolled, "borrow" your car without asking, or drink the last beer in the fridge. What they will do is express the few remaining natural behaviors that have endured through domestication. If you aren't prepared, some could come as a surprise.

Rabbits dig, chew, and need lots of space to run and play. You can't really discipline a rabbit — remember the lack of respect for authority? Providing lots of chew toys and other means of destruction is essential. Dumpster dive some cardboard boxes to keep your bunny occupied.

But what about actually living with your big-eared, wiggly-nosed comrades? The ideal place for a rabbit is a living room, assuming it is adequately bunny-proofed. Cover your cords or they will get chewed. A puppy exercise pen is a good enclosure because you can close it when you're away and open it to provide "hop time" when you're home.

Put a litter box that is at least twice the size of your rabbit in the pen, along with rabbit-safe litter (see Rabbit.org for a list). Pile a generous amount of timothy hay on top of the litter. Hay is the staple of a rabbit's diet, and also keeps furry feet dry. Add fresh hay two or three times a day to encourage maximum fiber consumption. Regular hay eating is essential for good health. Change the litter box once every other day. Provide a large ceramic crock for water — the kind sold for dogs work well. This encourages hydration better than a water bottle. Always keep the bowl full of fresh, clean water.

Victory garden overflowing with greens? Not only are kale, cilantro, parsley, dandelion greens, collard greens, and chard healthy for you, they're also good for your bunny. Be a farmer: grow your own.

If you have an apple tree, you can even give the branches to your rabbit for chew toys. Watch out, though, as many other woods are toxic. Fruit is a good once-a-day treat. Feed bunny a portion of raisins, dried cranberries, or apple about the size of your pinky. Feed a small dish of pellets only once a day. Follow the portions on the bag, and avoid anything with seeds or nuts. Buy organic and fair trade, so you don't support the exploitation of human animals to feed nonhuman animals. ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Where to Adopt Rabbits in the East Bay

Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary rescues animals from the East Bay and Central Valley and has a strong adoption program, with several adoption events in the East Bay. HarvestHomeSanctuary.org/adopt

House Rabbit Society rescues bunnies from all over the Bay Area and has many for adoption. Visit the Hop Shop in Richmond. Rabbit.org/rabbit-center/

Oakland Animal Services takes in animals from Oakland and has a strong and knowledgeable rabbit volunteer program, as well as many rabbits. Bonded pairs are often available. OaklandAnimalServices.org/

RabbitEars rescues all of the rabbits from the Berkeley municipal shelter and also sells pet supplies. They do not sell animals and are very knowledgeable about rabbits. RabbitEars.org/adoption.html

More Resources

Bunny Care Tips: HarvestHomeSanctuary.org/rabbit-care

SF Animal Care & Control: SFGov.org/acc

SaveABunny: SaveABunny.org

Hayward Shelter: HaywardAnimals.org

Tri-City Animal Shelter: Fremont.gov/index.aspx?nid=90

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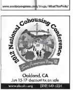

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FEATURE

DOES YOUR CAT NEED TO GO ON A DIET?

Obesity causes our furry friends a world of problems. Guess whose fault it is

By Kathleen Richards

A few months ago, Meow lived a very high-profile existence. He was featured on the local TV news, got close enough to actor Hugh Grant to sniff him, and even made an appearance on the *Today* show. Facebook photos of Meow received hundreds of comments. It's safe to say he was the most popular animal that had come through the doors of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society. His claim to fame? Being a morbidly obese kitty — 39 pounds, to be exact. That's 75 percent more weight than the average house cat.

Sadly, Meow's asset also became his downfall: last month, he took his last breath. But his existence, and the public's strong reaction to him, highlighted the growing problem of obesity among pets — one that mirrors humankind's own struggle with bulging belt sizes. According to the Association of Pet Obesity Prevention, more than 54 percent of dogs and cats are overweight in the United States.

"I would say it's a significant problem — and growing," said Dr. Gary Richter, a general practitioner at Montclair Veterinary Hospital in Oakland. Between 30 and 40 percent of the dogs and cats he sees in his practice are overweight, he estimated, meaning 20 percent more than what's considered a normal weight.

The blame, he said, lies squarely with the owners. The main factors are lack of exercise and poor diet (unless there's a thyroid problem) — just as it is with humans. Sure, some breeds and individuals are more inclined to know their own eating limits better than others, and some are naturally larger than others, but at base, the problem of overweight pets can be traced to what their human owners are or aren't doing: not giving them enough exercise, for example, or giving them too many treats or cheap pet food that's supplemented with such fillers.

"Probably the biggest culprit is not-good pet food," said Dr. Richter. "What it boils down to is carbohydrates. Cats and dogs aren't evolutionary designed to eat carbohydrates."

Being overweight has mostly similar but some unique health effects on cats and dogs. The main difference is that cats can develop diabetes, whereas dogs don't. But in either case, extra pounds can contribute to heart disease and inflammation, including damage to the organs and joints, and can shorten an animal's lifespan. "There's been some very good nutritional studies done that have shown that dogs that are allowed to become overweight will live, on average, two years less," said Dr. Richter. (That's fourteen dog years.)

Dr. Courtney Ikuta, a general and orthopedic surgeon at VCA Bay Area Veterinary Specialists and Emergency in San Leandro, said animals with weight problems are "much more likely" to get joint disease such as hip dysplasia or arthritis. "It dramatically affects their quality of life," she said. "What has been shown in people as well as animals is that weight loss can dramatically affect the number of medications necessary

Meow weighed in at 39 pounds.

Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society to keep you comfortable in regards to joint pain."

Even if they do undergo orthopedic surgery, overweight or obese animals face a tougher recovery process. In fact, said Dr. Ikuta, obese animals often aren't candidates for surgery for this very reason. Plus, she added, "If an owner can't bring a pet's weight down to a normal or acceptable body weight, there's a good chance they can't manage or follow our post-operative instructions anyway."

Yikes.

So what is an ideal body weight for an animal? Like the Body Mass Index, the Body Condition Score rates an animal's weight on a scale of one to nine, with nine being obese and one being emaciated. The ideal body condition, says Dr. Ikuta, is a four. "For a dog, if you run your hands over its ribs, you can feel the indentations between each rib. From the side, you can see the waist as it tucks up."

(Go ahead and try the test on your dog. We'll wait.)

The problem with that definition, especially the part about being able to feel the indentations between each rib, is that society has come to view that as underweight. Just as we've come to accept vanity sizes as the new normal, we now see normal weight dogs and cats as too skinny. And apparently, we're not afraid to shame others into thinking the same.

"I have people who come in with a Labrador at perfect body weight, and people chastise them saying they're starving their dog to death," said Dr. Richter. "... It's what you're used to seeing and what's the expected norm. There's this external pressure as well. Plus they're cute and fuzzy."

Overcoming society's perception that overweight animals are cute isn't so easy. Owners, thinking they're just being loving, lavish their furry friends with treats. "What people don't realize is an extra fifty calories a day is huge — that's a really big number," said Dr. Richter. "That's like a person having an extra three hundred, four hundred calories a day. For most people there's gonna be repercussions to that." But Dr. Richter acknowledged, "There's that whole food is love thing. It's how they express their affection."

For Oakland resident Christin, her overweight kitty has become a source of frustration — and embarrassment, which is why she only wanted to be identified by her first name. It's also why she has avoided finding out just how overweight her five-year-old cat Angel actually is — she only noticed the problem when she posted a photo of him on Facebook, and saw that his gut was dragging on the floor.

The problem, she says, arose from his constant crying. Originally, she fed Angel only one cup of food for the entire day, as per the instructions on his cat food's label. And she only fed him the fancy stuff — the kind without carb fillers.

"But he meows incessantly," she said. "It's nonstop, like he's starving. ... If you walk past his bowl, then he freaks out and starts meowing because he thinks you're gonna feed him. I started feeling guilty. Am I starving him?"

To stave off Angel's apparently constant hunger, she purchased a high-tech feeding bowl that released food on a timed basis while she was away at work. But Angel was too smart for it, and began pulling food out with his paw. Christin saw his behavior as a sign that he indeed was really hungry and that she wasn't feeding him enough. So she gave in and put out a big bowl of food, allowing him to eat all day. "And then he got huge," she said. Although that unlimited eating experiment only lasted for a little more than a week, the effect has been long-lasting. And so has her frustration.

"It's a constant trial and error," she said. "I'm at the point now where I'm back to doing a cup a day and he's slimmed down a little. I've tried to modify it." Christin admits that part of the problem also has to do with Angel's lack of exercise. She lives in a high-rise studio apartment, so Angel can't go outside. And his activity level has decreased since he's gained weight. No longer can he jump up on the kitchen counter with ease. "He just lies down," she said. "That's his favorite pastime."

"I HAVE PEOPLE WHO COME IN WITH A LABRADOR AT PERFECT BODY WEIGHT, AND PEOPLE CHASTISE THEM SAYING THEY'RE STARVING THEIR DOG TO DEATH," SAID DR. RICHTER. "... IT'S WHAT YOU'RE USED TO SEEING AND WHAT'S THE EXPECTED NORM."

But one of the hardest parts about Angel's weight, Christin said, is how it reflects upon her as an owner. "I've had people make comments like, 'Wow, he's huge,'" she said. "And it's embarrassing. I feel socially embarrassed. I feel like people judge me."

"I just have to deal with it," she continued. "I have to deal with him crying. It's hard when you love your cat, you want him to feel happy inside. I feel like I'm dealing with a child who wants candy all the time and you have to say no and you feel bad about it. It's embarrassing. I should never have kids." In other words, while some view an overweight pet as healthy and cuddly, others may deem it a victim of cruelty or neglect — perhaps depending on how overweight it is.

But besides good health, there's another practical incentive for keeping your pet lean, and that's cost. Taking care of a diabetic cat can cost thousands of dollars per year, said Dr. Richter. Surgery to fix a ruptured ligament in the knee of a dog — an apparently common injury for those that are overweight — can cost $4,000.

Also, getting owners to change their feeding habits is a major hurdle. Which is why Dr. Richter suggests starting correct eating habits early. Just as a proper human diet is a matter of willpower — not to mention having access to healthy foods — for animals it's also a matter of the owner's willpower. "The dog won't perish if it skips a couple meals," Dr. Richter assured.

But, as was the case for Meow, too many treats proved deadly. ●

Kathleen.Richards@EastBayExpress.com

EAST BAY EXPRESS
PET PORTRAIT PARADE!

Celebrate your favorite non-human pal and post his or her portrait on our Facebook page between **now and Monday, June 11th**. The pet portrait with the most "likes" will get a special spot in our **June 13th issue** and **win a private portrait session with Lori A. Cheung**, thePetPhotographer.com, at your Bay Area home, park, beach or wherever your pet is happiest!!

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Voting Begins June 1

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Go to **EastBayExpress.com/ballot**
to cast your votes.

REVOLUTION

THE BEST OF THE EAST BAY 2012

It's Time to Vote for Best of the East Bay!

In our 2012 Best of the East Bay Revolution, we'll focus on the people, products, and services that are considered revolutionary. This means restaurants taking new approaches, artists creating groundbreaking works, or activists with game-changing ideas. It can also apply to those who are outspoken, subversive, politically active, irreverent, unapologetic, provocative, or renegades. In other words, the businesses and individuals you need to know about in the East Bay.

Official Ballot Rules: No Anarchy

All votes must be cast via our web site. Go to EastBayExpress.com/ballot to cast your votes. All ballots must be cast by midnight, Saturday, June 30. Only one ballot per person. Your votes should be your own. Duplicate ballots reflecting slate voting will be discarded, as will ballots that have been influenced by gifts, discounts, or financial incentives. Valid ballots must have legitimate votes in at least 20 categories. Participants may submit comments about any winner – the best of which will be compiled and published in the Best of the East Bay issue.

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ARTS & CULTURE

- Best annual event
- Best artist
- Best art exhibit
- Best art gallery
- Best arts organization
- Best band
- Best booker at a club
- Best club
- Best dance club
- Best DJ (club)
- Best jazz combo
- Best local album
- Best local author
- Best local blog or website
- Best local book
- Best local film or documentary
- Best musician
- Best poet
- Best protest artist
- Best radio show
- Best rapper
- Best record label
- Best singer
- Best theatrical production
- Best underground cultural event

GOODS & SERVICES

- Best art supplies
- Best bakery
- Best barbershop
- Best bike shop
- Best bookstore
- Best brewery
- Best cannabis dispensary
- Best car repair
- Best children's store
- Best clothing store
- Best comic book store
- Best community bank
- Best co-op
- Best craft supply store
- Best dentist
- Best doctor
- Best edible cannabis products
- Best eyeglass shop
- Best farmers' market
- Best farmers' market vendor
- Best furniture store
- Best green business
- Best grocery store
- Best jeweler
- Best massage
- Best new business
- Best pet store
- Best piercer
- Best plant nursery
- Best record store
- Best recycled or salvaged goods
- Best salon
- Best sex shop
- Best shoe store
- Best tattoo artist
- Best toy store
- Best used bookstore
- Best used clothing
- Best veterinarian
- Best wine shop
- Best winemaker

PEOPLE & PLACES

- Best academic program
- Best community garden
- Best company to work for
- Best K-12 teacher
- Best neighborhood
- Best nonprofit or charity
- Best pick-up spot
- Best place to hang out
- Best place to hold a revolution
- Best place to learn DIY skills
- Best place to smoke weed
- Best place to take the kids
- Best political movement or group
- Best program to engage youth
- Best protest event
- Best religious service
- Best use of public space
- Most courageous attorney
- Most groundbreaking idea
- Most outspoken activist
- Most outspoken professor
- Most revolutionary city or city initiative
- Most unwavering politician or public figure

RESTAURANTS & BARS

- Best African restaurant
- Best bar
- Best bartender
- Best barbecue
- Best breakfast/brunch
- Best buffet
- Best Chinese restaurant
- Best cocktail
- Best coffee
- Best cupcakes
- Best dessert
- Best gay bar
- Best gluten-free dish
- Best ice cream
- Best Indian/Pakistani restaurant
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best Japanese/sushi restaurant
- Best jukebox at a bar
- Best Korean restaurant
- Best locally sourced/organic menu
- Best Mexican or Central American restaurant
- Best Middle Eastern restaurant
- Best mobile food vendor
- Best new bar
- Best new restaurant
- Best pizza
- Best sandwiches
- Best Southern/soul food
- Best taco truck
- Best Thai/Lao/Burmese restaurant
- Best vegetarian/vegan restaurant
- Best Vietnamese/Cambodian restaurant
- Most courageous chef
- Most creative drinks
- Most subversive use of ingredients

SPORTS & LEISURE

- Best athlete
- Best basketball courts
- Best bike ride
- Best boot camp
- Best endurance challenge
- Best fitness instructor
- Best group activity
- Best martial arts studio
- Best options at a gym
- Best park
- Best Pilates studio
- Best place for water sports
- Best place to play board games
- Best place to run
- Best pool hall
- Best spontaneous sports gathering
- Best sporting goods store
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- Most subversive exercise routine

Category we didn't think of and winner

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Some landlords see pets as an alternate revenue stream.

FEATURE

RENTING: IT'S NOT FOR THE DOGS

Your pet could be a liability or an asset. How to make it work.

By Rachel Swan

Finding a perfect apartment in the East Bay is already challenging, as anyone who's scoured Craigslist this year can tell you. If you're a pet owner, it's even tougher. A quick perusal of local housing listings last week was enough to get a thumbnail sketch of the landscape. Many rental companies don't allow pets at all, lest the owner prove some kind of extenuating circumstance (i.e., a visually impaired person who needs a guide dog). Income Property Investors prohibits animals at its digs on Clayton Road in Concord. Emerald Properties ruled that fish and birds are fine, but no furry critters, please. Many other places boasted an "animal-friendly" policy, but required all pet owners to pay an additional security deposit — $500 appears to be the industry standard.

Evidently, that's your particular cross to bear if you're a renter and you want to own a dog or cat in the East Bay. But experts say there are ways to ease the burden. If you play your cards right, you're more likely to recoup that money.

Unfortunately, we're not exactly living in a renter's market. In fact, we're living in a market that's "permanently broken," according to Stephen E. Barton, housing director for the City of Berkeley. Rent prices throughout coastal California are always about 60 to 70 percent higher than those in comparable cities in the United States, barring a cataclysmic event that completely destabilizes the economy. The recession required landlords to lower their prices to account for higher vacancy rates, but they have since raised them back to the high levels seen in 2008. In fact, the Bay Area, like Manhattan and Washington DC, is a highly populated "island of high rents," Barton said, which makes it extremely competitive, and hard to navigate, particularly if you have a pet. Landlords always have the advantage, and they can effectively create whatever kinds of prohibitions on pets that they want.

That gives property owners and rental companies the latitude to demand fairly high fees of pet owners. Many ask for a few hundred dollars as an insurance deposit in the event that Fido destroys a carpet or digs up the yard. But some landlords see pets as an opportunity for an alternate revenue stream. Longtime dog owner Jackie Phillips, who wrote the book *Renting with Rex: How You, Your Dog, Your Landlord, and Your Neighbors Can All Thrive in Rental Housing*, said that one rental company in Hayward tacked an additional $25 a month to her rent.

But while landlords definitely wield the power, it's not always to their advantage to treat pet owners as a fee generator, said Laura Fulda, marketing director of the East Bay SPCA. "They can name a higher price, but they can also get people who are responsible and who are willing to stay for a number of years," Fulda explained, adding that a good track record with a dog might augur well on a tenant's portfolio. She added that it's to a renter's advantage to have a pet résumé in hand when trying to negotiate with a prospective landlord. It would include assurances about the animal's cleanliness, its lovability, and its health. "If you have a frisky puppy, but you make sure to take it out for a two-mile run every morning, you should say that," Fulda advised. You might assuage your landlord's fears.

Granted, there's a whole concatenation of other factors to consider when renting an apartment with your pet. Some areas, for instance, are more geographically suited to pet ownership than others. Berkeley is a big checkerboard of two- and four-unit homes with yards where a dog can run around to its heart's desire, whereas other parts of the East Bay are dominated by high-rise apartments, which tend to be more restrictive. Many property owners or managers place limitations on the size or breeds of dogs they allow. Essex Property Trust, which owns buildings throughout the Bay Area, touts itself as a pet-friendly company but forbids "aggressive" types such as pit bulls, huskies, terriers, and German Shepherds. Iron Horse Park Apartments has a similar policy. Many landlords refuse dogs that weigh more than 25 pounds, since they're considered more destructive. Some Oakland property managers permit cats, but are more wary of canines. Dogs might be "open to discussion," but the discussion could also involve a lot of pleading by the renter.

Pet enthusiasts grouse about such prohibitions — Fulda says that big dogs just get a bad rap in the media. Phillips thinks we stereotype them for pooping too much — but aren't in a position to challenge them. Generally, Phillips said, once you and your pet find a livable environment, you'll want to stay put. She now lives in a mobile home park with several dogs, which all seem content, she says — most of her neighbors own pets as well. It's one of the better situations she's encountered in nineteen years of renting.

With all that said, a pet doesn't have to be an albatross around your neck, owners say. It's possible to recover your deposit if you clean the floors and the carpet before moving. Also be sure to cover your tracks by documenting any damage when you move in, so that you don't have to pay for it, Fulda advised. Take pictures, get video, do before-and-after comparisons, and turn them over to your landlord. The more diplomatic you are, the more likely you'll be absolved of repair costs.

IT CAN BE TO A RENTER'S ADVANTAGE TO HAVE A PET RESUME WHEN NEGOTIATING WITH A PROSPECTIVE LANDLORD, FULDA SAID. IT WOULD INCLUDE ASSURANCES ABOUT THE ANIMAL'S CLEANLINESS AND HEALTH.

Phillips concurs. She has shouldered the burden of renting with dogs, cats, and bunnies in tow, and says that overall, it's been a rewarding experience. Sometimes you have to give up human comforts, like having a carpet or a swimming pool, she conceded. But in exchange, you get the benefit of a happy interspecies relationship. And sometimes it's better in close quarters.

"One of the things I talked about in my book is how much better your relationship will be with your dog if you live with your dog," she said, "and you don't have the luxury of saying, 'You go out in the backyard. I'm going to stay inside.'" From her perspective, dogs can be fabulous roommates, even in a small studio or a one-bedroom apartment. "I moved out of my parents' house with a dog, and I've never not had a dog," she added. "And I've lived in 100 percent rentals." ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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FEATURE

COMING HOME TO ROOST

How to keep chickens as pets

By Christine Morrissey

As the morning sun peeks over the rolling Hayward hills, Anne Kenney is already busy tending to her "girls." For the flock of fourteen rescued chickens, Kenney's predator-proof backyard is a slice of free-range paradise. To Kenney, a fifty-year-old aspiring pastry chef, the chickens are her enduring companions.

Two years ago, Kenney started rescuing unwanted chickens from her neighbors and Craigslist. As a newly unemployed teacher, she decided to refocus her energies to stay positive in spite of an uncertain career path.

Most recently, she adopted two Leghorn hens that nearly starved to death earlier this year at A&L Poultry, an abandoned egg facility near Turlock, California. The hens now dine on a varied, colorful array of feedstuffs, including brown rice, blueberries, romaine lettuce, and organic chicken crumble.

"I know each one's voice," Kenney said. "Chickens keep me connected. They give my life purpose."

Faced with the daunting task of finding employment, Kenney said the chickens have helped her cope with depression. When she started adopting chickens, "it went from the worst time of my life to all of a sudden the best time of my life," she said.

From two-pound Bantams and mid-size Frizzle Cochins to ten-pound Jersey Giants, chickens are now welcomed in as feathered "Fidos" in many Bay Area households. A growing number of chicken keepers are moving away from the conventional feedstore and breeder sources in favor of adopting chickens as companion animals.

With a quick online search, it's easy to find chickens in need of rescue. Local humane societies, municipal animal shelters, and rescue organizations like Vacaville's Animal Place Rescue Ranch routinely offer chickens up for adoption. PetFinder.com, a popular online animal adoption network, also lists chickens.

Aspiring chicken "parents" should know a few important points about bird care before adoption. Caregivers should be mindful of local zoning laws. Some municipalities limit or prohibit residents from having chickens, especially roosters. A city's municipal code is available online for review. The City of Alameda caps the limit on pet chickens at six. Oakland residents may care for hens as pets; however, roosters are prohibited within city limits. A twenty-foot buffer must be in place between a bird's living space and any human dwelling in both Alameda and Oakland. Chickens may also be adopted as pets in Berkeley with a 25-foot buffer zone in place.

In daylight, chickens enjoy spacious yet protected outdoor accommodations, as these domestic birds love to forage, dustbathe, and sunbathe. At night, it's essential for chickens to be provided with a secure, comfortable enclosure to safeguard them against predators such as raccoons, coyotes, owls, and hawks. Caregivers should also be mindful to keep dogs and cats separated from chickens.

Lori Huneke, who adopted a small group of hens from the Marin Humane Society in March, said it's important to maintain a regular cleaning schedule for the chickens' indoor and outdoor living spaces.

Chicken manure is known for its foul odor. "Chickens are really cool pets," said Huneke, a mother of two children who lives in Pleasanton. "People don't realize that. But you have to be on top of cleaning up after them. It's been a seriously amazing experience for my kids. Caring for the chickens teaches them responsibility. They also experience the life cycle of an animal."

The physical well-being of a companion bird also plays a central role in the overall care of chickens. Oakley's Medical Center for Birds and San Francisco's Bay Area Bird Hospital are popular avian-care destinations for sick and injured chickens.

"The vet bills are the same as if you brought your dog or cat to the vet," continued Karen Cunningham of Brisbane. "It can be expensive if your chickens get sick." Cunningham, who works from home, shares her home and garden with five rescued hens.

Rachel Stumps, a retired veterinary nurse with avian care experience, stressed the importance of proper nutrition, vaccination, and parasite prevention for companion chickens. She recommends identifying a local veterinarian who is skilled in treating chickens. With ideal care, chickens can live for more than ten years.

Christine Morrissey

There are lots of chickens in need of rescue.

A longtime Livermore resident, Stumps encourages newcomer chicken adopters to befriend a person who already has chickens for advice and ideas. In addition, she said, farm animal rescue organizations offer free educational materials on the topic of humane chicken care.

The intelligence of chickens is often underestimated. In fact, scientific studies have shown that chickens can anticipate the future, grasp cause-and-effect relations, and maintain self-control.

Chickens can also sound off at least thirty distinct vocalizations, which is music to Stumps' ears. "It's very calming just listening to chickens," said Stumps, who has rescued and rehabilitated several injured hens and roosters from local backyards farms in recent years.

At dusk, Kenney oversees the evening procession of her menagerie of rescued chickens into their secure birdhouse. This daily activity is a therapeutic routine for Kenney and a thoughtful safe precaution for her lucky hens.

"Chickens are sentient beings, just like dogs and cats," she concludes. "This experience with hens completely changed my life. These rescued hens saved me." ■

Christine Morrissey is the manager of Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, a farm animal rescue, rehabilitation, and humane education center based in Stockton.

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READER-SUBMITTED PET STORIES

We asked, you responded. Here are funny, sad, and poignant stories about our furry and feathered friends.

Alone But Not for You

My husband Silas S. Warner, author of *Castle Wolfenstein*, left this world after battling kidney disease combined with diabetes and high blood pressure. His heroic work on DNA software gave the world the ability to separate the innocent from the guilty and free hundreds of wrongly convicted persons.

Unfortunately, Silas' death left me totally alone except for the assistance dogs I have had, who help me walk with sciatica, brace me from falling, and get me to and from places with steep steps. These range from San Francisco art galleries to a music school with a staircase that would confound a spider.

My current service dog, a golden retriever named Cassie Rainbow, joins the other dogs in having a particular gift: human relations. She will kiss babies and comfort the ill, revealing in her inner lit blue eyes a love that radiates to all, comforting indiscriminately.

Since my husband's death in February 2004, my life in the world — teaching horseback riding and writing and producing plays — has been made possible, in spite of an overwhelming state of grief, by the following heroes, of whom Cassie Rainbow is one: Boo Boo Bear, a Newfoundland, pulled carts full of children at a community event in Chico, accompanied me to my first official paid job as a therapeutic riding instructor in late June 2004, and wagged his immense rudder-like tail in time to the beautiful music at the Berkeley Jazz School, creating, as the instructor termed it, "the Boo Boo Bop." Boo Boo outlived the normal life expectancy for Newfoundlands by four months.

Cassie Rainbow

Héro and her owner

Yet his health deteriorated quite rapidly by age ten, and an amazing dog — a long hoped-for fantasy — asked for a home. A Saint Bernard I named Héro La Lumière (Champion of Light) had been savagely abused and undernourished by his former owner, a meth lab idiot now in prison. The Animal Rescue Foundation provided the free services of a behavioral evaluator, and Héro's good French manners prevailed and we went home.

With the help of two eye operations and my own food program of ten pounds of kibble each day plus a rice/chicken/liver/tomato concoction in the slow cooker, Héro thrived. A French woman resembling an older Audrey Hepburn fell in love with him and never doubted Héro's comprehension for a moment. And Héro played the role of a cow during therapeutic riding games and at abled facilities where I taught.

Service dogs are meant to help their human partners lead a full life. Héro accompanied me to the opera, where he absorbed the libretto with better understanding than most of the audience, his beautiful eyes never leaving the stage. We tutored in libraries together, where Héro never had to stretch to reach the water fountain. Since meth madness had almost killed the dog, we led drug education rallies yelling, "Meth equals death! Meth equals death!" All of these rallies were impromptu, on BART platforms and in libraries, and I hope KPFA aces Dennis Bernstein and Davey D would be proud of us.

Héro's premature death at age three and a half was caused by the lung damage perpetrated by early meth exposure. How I got a sick 165 pound Saint Bernard into my little Toyota and to the vet's that December afternoon I will never know.

Miracles abound throughout this story. Love itself is a miracle. So are the dogs.

Keri Ann Owen Hercules

Kihei

A New Light

I bought a new light fixture for the foyer. From her pillow bed in the living room, my dog Kihei watches me make the black-to-black and white-to-white wire connections. I no longer think of her as a rescue dog. She has left her anxious days behind. She has chosen me.

Kihei is like the green wire I attach to the ceiling fixture, my grounding connection, my safe harbor from dangerous currents. She knows this, and shows that in the way she looks back over her shoulder on our leash-less walks to keep track of where I am, where I am heading. Though she walks in front of me, she is following.

I call her a Basbepoden — guessing her to be part Basenji, part Shepherd, part Labrador — a short-haired, orange-brown mutt that would be mistaken for a pure-bred Korean Jindo dog but for the fact that she has one floppy ear and one erect ear, a symbol of her fractured origin. Her standing ear swivels like a radar dish, monitoring for squirrels and unfamiliar approaches. She sights through her nose.

I pop in a new light bulb and flip the switch to test the connections. The light is sudden and bright. Kihei, whose original name is unknown, and who did not respond to her shelter-given name, is named after the sun and sand-splashed town on Maui's southwest coast, which Hawaiians used to refer to as a barren place where no one wanted to live or work until the late 1960s when water was piped into the area from central Maui. The town of Kihei was developed in vague service to local industry, a hodgepodge of buildings squeezed between the ocean to its west and to its east a highway to somewhere else. So, too, was the place she had been found, a desolate patch between the bay and Interstate 80, halfway into an unknown history, days from an unnoticed end.

We first met in a gray, square room at the Berkeley Humane Society, occupied by a desk and a red sofa. I had been told to expect her to be wary. But she bounded from her handler to my place on the sofa, lifted her paws onto my knees and placed her nose against mine. The handler — a multi-pierced young woman with a blue-streaked ponytail — said that she never does that. It was my birthday, and she had seen that I needed to be reborn.

I turn the screws of the stop-plates that hold the frosted glass cover in place. As I fold the ladder and return it and my tools to the utility closet, I decide to take Kihei for a walk. She bounds from her pillow at the sound of the unlatching of the front door, one ear leading the other. We leave the light on.

Andrew Wiener, Oakland

Pude the Wonder Cat

Even people who didn't like cats delighted in Pude. He'd jump in the laps of regular visitors and newcomers to my house and look up at them with such sweetness and joy and willingness to love that they had little choice but to reciprocate.

Pude was a bona fide bliss-ball, a dyed-in-the-wool ecstatic-cat. As soon as I awoke, I'd see him sitting there beside me, patiently waiting for me to open my eyes, gazing at me with his huge, expressive peridot peepers. He'd then bestow on me his unique daily greeting: bounding onto my chest, his grey furriness already a purr, and then lick my nose several times. I came to call this daily ritual "shnurfling." My other two cats, Pinky and Homer, were affectionate, too, but neither gave Eskimo kisses. I never thought I'd have three cats, but bringing Pude into my home was a great decision. He was a true companion animal, and a smart one, too, which he amply proved one cold December night.

Pude never cried or complained. So when I thought I heard him crying at around 4 a.m., rousing me from a feverish flu-fueled haze, at first I thought I was dreaming and went back to sleep. Several minutes later, I was roused by the same sound, but again I dozed off. I'd closed my bedroom door that night to keep the cats out. I needed an undisturbed night's sleep to get over the flu. But my bedroom was in the colder part of the house, and the main heat source was on the other side, a big floor grate. So I left the heat on that night, hoping some warmth might seep through the crack under the door.

Now cries awakened me a third time. The clock said 4:23. Pude was crying — it was unmistakable now — and scratching frantically on my door. I finally got up and wobbled out of bed, thinking he must be sick or hurt. As I opened the door, I saw Pude doing the oddest behavior I'd ever seen. He emphatically turned his head to the side several times, as if pointing. I looked in the direction of his point just as I smelled a strange odor, and I saw its source. A large, matted print had fallen from the wall onto the big floor grate. It was surrounded by smoke and bursting into flames. I doused the flames, took Pude in my arms, and thanked him profusely. My hugs were returned with purrs, licks, and a knowing gaze. My other two cats had by now skedaddled out the cat door, saving themselves, but Pude had stayed, and saved me. If not for him, by the time the fire would have invaded my room, it would have been too late.

After that, Pude's name that was originally short for "Puddha," became short for "Pude the Wonder Cat."

A few years later, when he was fourteen, Pude got sick. After two vet visits, I took him to a specialist, who took tests and ultrasounds, and then uttered terrible words. He said Pude was in his last days, that the sonograms showed tumors in his intestines.

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He pointed them out to me, and I should get ready to say good bye.

Back at home Pude and I turned to each other as we often did. I got the clear feeling that this didn't need to be the end and that Pude felt that way too. He still had so much spirit and joy. He was still climbing in people's laps and making them happy. So I did all I could to help him get better, starting slowly, gradually at first to monitor the effect. I adjusted his diet, gave him herbs and applied a plant balm, and tried to encourage wellness with my hands. After a week or so, Pude showed signs of improvement, so I continued. In another few weeks he seemed totally well. Heartened, I gradually reduced all ministrations except the adjusted nutrition, and I watched and waited.

After two months with no signs of Pude's illness I took him back to the specialist, who took more ultrasounds. He looked puzzled as he returned to tell me the results. He said that the first sonograms must have been defective because there were no growths there anymore. Pude — the Wonder Cat again.

But when he was twenty, Pude got really sick, and this time several organs were involved. He got so ill that there was no denying — it was farewell time. We both knew it and made no attempts to delay the inevitable. His decline had suddenly become very marked. For two days he had been too weak even to schnorfle. So on that second day I called the vet, asking if she could come and help him on his way.

As we waited for the vet I held Pude on my tummy and expressed my unending gratitude and love, and that he was such a special gift to my life and would never be forgotten. I said good bye. Then, with his last bit, last bit of strength, he lifted himself forward, reaching his face toward mine. I knew what he wanted to do, so I gently pulled him closer and bent my head toward his. Pude then looked in my eyes and gave me, one last time, three Eskimo kisses and four loving licks. It was his last act. A moment later he was gone.

Jenna Jackson, Oakland

The Champ

This was 1994. Being fat, black, nerdy, intelly and sensitive about it (contrary to today's fashionably ironic hipster shit) was not cool at all back then. I was bullied so badly I wanted to kick my own ass.

Winter break eve, waiting at the bus stop next to the country bar. Two overgrown eighth graders are giving me hell. Suddenly snapping out from behind a dumpster, an angry mongrel of a dog starts barking and snarling at the jerks. They stay off.

It actually seemed as if he wanted to be my friend. His eyes were smiling when he approached me. The school bus pulled up and I quickly got to a seat, but when I looked out the window he'd already split. Miraculously, when I got off the bus seven hours later, there he is! As he followed me home I decided to nickname him "The Champ."

Since he had my back, I took care of him. Tricky though, considering the fact that I had to make sure my family didn't know about his existence. For five days during that chilly vacation I was able to feed, bathe and play with The Champ. He slept under my bed and we watched a lot of MTV.

The sad part: My grandfather, June Bug, came home smashed (which was not unusual), tripped over the kerosene heater in the living room and damn near burned our house down. In the smoky late-night scramble, my pet freaked out and bit the drunk's leg. He took a McGruff-sized chomp.

Aunt Shirley came to pick me up. I kept asking her if the dog would be okay. Wasn't so worried about June Bug. She just kept driving me around town and telling me not to worry about it. By the time she dropped me off, The Champ was gone.

DeWayne Fraser Dickerson, Oakland

King

One day my friend Karen said, "Hi Jerry. How would you like to have a nice little puppy? I know that you recently lost your dog Shadow, and I know that you know how to take care of animals." I said, "I can't do that. I'm still grieving for my poor dog Shadow."

A few days later, Karen came by again. She was carrying a tiny puppy. It was a Miniature Pinscher. I looked at her and said, "I still don't want a dog." She said, "Why don't you try him out?" Then she set the puppy on my lap and it curled up in my arms. I said, "Maybe I'll keep him for a day, but I am going to find out about this breed first." The info from the Internet was that they were not related to the Doberman Pinscher. They were a hyper dog and they barked a lot. It said that this breed was a bad apartment dog.

Later, while I was working at my desk, Karen came in with the puppy again. She asked, "Why don't you keep him for one night?" She had two other puppies with her but both were smaller. Karen looked over at me holding the dog and laughed, saying, "You know you're going to keep him." I said, "Okay, Karen. I'll try him for a week. But I don't think this is going to work out."

When I got home, I put some papers in the bathroom and left him for a while. When I next looked, he had pooped on the floor. I told him, "No pooping in the house," and took him for a walk. After that, he never did his business in the house again — ever. I thought, "This must be a smart dog." I put him in a crate and left him for a while. When I returned he had ripped the skin off his nose trying to escape. I was afraid to put him in the crate again. I thought, "This dog is not going to work out."

I decided to put him in the bathroom while I slept at night. He made so much noise in that bathroom that I had to let him sleep in my bed. He didn't like it when I left him home alone, so I began taking him with me wherever I went. He was totally attached to me by now, and his trial time was coming to an end. Right around this time is when I began to realize that this dog was actually training me as much as I was training him.

I called him King, or "King of the Mini Pins." Some people started calling him "Little King." Of course I had to keep him. The Chinese people who live in my apartment building call him King and refer to me as King's father. But they don't know who I am?

Jerome Kool, Berkeley

Shoshan Takes a Nap

It was a warm morning. Shoshan had just finished her breakfast of mixed cereal, mashed bananas, applesauce, cut mango and broccoli. She was stuffed, and zoned out on my shoulder to digest her food before playing with her toys. I was in the driver's seat facing the sun and closed my eyes, taking in the warmth through my skin and feeling incredible. We both fell asleep for a short nap. A woman parked her car and proceeded to shop. Several minutes later the woman came out and walked over to the truck to comment on how bonded we seemed to be. Shoshan had pressed her body into my cheek, her feathers fluffed up absorbing the sun.

As an Umbrella Cockatoo she was surely one of the most dependent birds I had ever owned. At 32 years old her trust in me had been earned, and all of her social needs were met by me: food, water, toys, social preening, and nursemaid during her infertile egg laying in spring when her hormones ran amuck into madness. I was her everything. With the window open the woman pressed her hand into my palm and wished me a wonderful day. I acknowledged her greeting, and unfolded my hand to find a twenty-dollar bill staring at me. Immediately, with tears running down my face, I thanked her for her support.

She returned to her car, unloaded her packages and came back. "I didn't give you enough," she said and handed me four more bills. "You and your bird need to eat of course. You look so comfortable together, so secure with each other. I have never seen such devotion with a bird." I thanked her, shaking my head, weeping inside my body. It was hard enough to acknowledge that as a homeless woman living in my truck I had responsibilities which extended to making sure my bird was happy, healthy and alive. It was harder still to acknowledge to myself that I was homeless — a label that connotes so many images that just don't reflect who I am.

Seeing dogs or even cats in a car don't conjure those same images. But a bird is a dead giveaway. It hadn't been the first time that Shoshan had provoked such a response from a stranger, but this time it had been unexpected. Usually it entailed questions like "What kind of bird is it?" friendly smiles from those who instinctively "knew" what the situation was, or getting bird treats from other bird owners and understanding conversation from those who knew how difficult it was to do what I needed to do. This woman had done what no one else had. She instinctively knew that we were a pair, a bonded unit who took care of each other. Shoshan hadn't abandoned me, and I certainly wasn't going to give her up because I didn't have a place to live.

Robin and Shoshan, Oakland

Gimpy

To prepare for the new goldfish, Lauren brought a fishbowl and black gravel. Wyatt offered the pump, and Julia toted in leafy green plants. When Gimpy arrived the next day, my whole sixth grade class crowded around his bowl, where they pointed, laughed and cooed like new parents.

Having never owned a goldfish, I was clueless about things like pH and food flakes. In fact, I felt confident about only one thing: Belly-down, alive. Belly up, dead. Thus I entrusted Gimpy's well-being to the kids and secretly delighted in finding him alive each morning, floating around like a little slice of mango with paper-thin fins. He was cute. I liked him.

Days passed. The kids made up tales about Gimpy's previous lives and jostled for feeding privileges. A few even invented a "Fish Dance," a spontaneous display of gyrating hips and waving hands to celebrate, well, the fish. What they did not do, however, was care for his fishbowl. Before long, its glass sported a dark film of algae and its water became clouded with decomposing food. I pressed the kids to address the problem. "He's your fish," I said, wanting them to take responsibility.

Still nobody stepped up. Excuses varied: *No time. Don't have the proper materials. Don't know what to do.* I held firm, but as another week passed — and the bowl's condition worsened — I grew nervous. Gimpy was nearly invisible now. Would I kill him just to prove a point?

No. I decided asking for help from a seventh grader, a former student who professed great fish knowledge. After school that day we performed an Extreme Makeover on Gimpy's fishbowl, and in no time he was back to whizzing around in water that was clear as glass, straight from our tap. Who knew it was so easy?

Satisfied, I left to make photocopies, returning twenty minutes later to find Gimpy nearly belly-up, his fins waving lethargically, his tiny eyes already glassy. I quickly transferred him to a mug of spring water, where he tipped drunkenly for a minute and died. I was crushed and confused. I would learn about chlorine later, but in that moment I just gazed at the empty bowl, chastising myself for being so careless.

The kids were less heartbroken. The next day they set Gimpy's tiny body into a hole in a flowerbed. A few fake cried, some expressed genuine remorse, but nobody blamed me for his demise. "These things happen," said Lauren, the fishbowl tucked under her arm. "Fish usually die in the end." Until that moment I hadn't realized how prepared the kids were for this outcome, how many of their homes already contained evidence of a deceased pet: an empty cage, a frayed dog collar, a half-used bag of kitty litter. Their short lives — like it or not — had seasoned them for loss. The funeral ended and a small group gathered for one last "Fish Dance." As they hopped around Gimpy's grave, I found myself smiling, admiring their joy, their courage, their youth.

Chris McComb, Berkeley

A Valentine for Misha

I was on my way out to lunch one Valentine's Day when I suddenly saw my childhood dog. She was medium sized, shaggy, white, and furry. Her head was pointed, terrier-style. A few strands of hair hung over her face. Dougal! I leapt off the bus to say hello.

Not Dougal after all. Her name was Misha. When she placed her paws on my waist, I asked, "Will you be my Valentine?" She licked my cheek and offered her paw to shake. I wish I had memorized her number because I have since fallen in love.

I was five when Dougal first offered her paw to shake, and we shook paws the whole time I was growing up. I liked gazing into her adoring brown eyes. I liked it when she licked my cheek. We lay on my blue-green shag rug while I scratched her tummy.

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I whispered my secrets to her and she listened with care. My love for Dougal was the strongest kind I've ever felt. I asked her to marry me and, of course, she said yes. Misha reminds me so much of Dougal I can't stop thinking about her.

I knew I'd place a "Missed Matches" ad in the *Express* so I can find Misha again. That's how Dougal had come into my family — after my parents answered an ad in the paper. My mother still has a clipping of the ad saved in a special box on her dresser. I hope my new ad brings Misha back to me.

Misha from Castro Valley
Outside Grace Baking on Solano
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You licked my face when I asked you to be my Valentine. Water and dog biscuits? Box 3915

And here's how my voicemail message sounds: "Hi Misha. I love you. I keep looking for you outside of Grace Baking, but I haven't seen you there. I really want to see you again because you're my Valentine and I adore you. Hope you call me soon."

Today I saw people I had been thinking of in a distant way: and two shaggy white furry dogs. Dougal twins! I ran across the street to say hello. Why can't I run into Misha? My heart is aflutter!

Misha answered my ad. She's living in Albany now. Just think — we could be reunited tomorrow. The next day I leapt off the bus once more for a grand reunion!

Eve Schlesinger, Berkeley

A Pet Story

She was a tabby, skin and bones, with large green eyes. Not a cat I'd want to touch or have sit on my lap. Nor did I want a cat. I was busy studying for my master's and working part time. But the cat kept appearing on my doorstep. Finally I relented. I named her Tania.

Even the times when I returned home very late and rushed to fill Tania's empty food bowl, she would not rush to eat. She'd jump on the coffee table by the sofa, wait for me to sit down, and then face me and meow: "Welcome home. How was your day?" Only after I talked to her would she have her meal.

One day I found Tania tearing up papers in a corner of the pantry. She was no longer scrawny. Her sides bulged. "Aha! Kittens on the way!" I lined a shallow carton with soft clean rags and placed it in the spot she had chosen.

Time passed. I was at home studying. Tania jumped on my lap and meowed into my face. I was surprised. She never demanded attention. I put her down on the floor. She jumped back onto my lap and meowed with an urgency I couldn't ignore. I got up and followed her into the pantry. She stepped inside the shallow carton and as soon as I knelt beside her she started delivering her kittens.

A year went by. I noticed that Tania was hardly eating. She wasn't jumping on the coffee table to ask about my day, nor was she sleeping in her usual place, a fluffy area rug by my bed. Day and night she stayed sitting in the shower stall. I took her to the vet. "Nothing wrong," he said. "She's pregnant. Not eating? Some stomach bug, I guess. Nothing to worry about." Back home Tania resumed her place inside the shower stall.

Two nights later she dragged herself into my bedroom and lay down on her usual spot on the fluffy rug. I sighed with relief. Tania must be feeling better. By morning there might be a new litter of kittens. In the morning there were no kittens, but Tania was still there by my bed. I called her name. She didn't move. My stomach tightened as I watched and saw there was no movement at all. The cat wasn't breathing. She was dead.

An autopsy revealed the fetuses were oversized, too large for her to deliver. I will never forget Tania, the cat who always welcomed me home, who wanted me at her side while she delivered her first litter of kittens, and at her side again, a year later, when she must have sensed that she had only a few hours left to live.

Kathryn Winter, Berkeley

Visha and Ezg

Spot

It all started with show-and-tell. You remember Show and Tell, don't you? That's the day you get to bring in something really great from home to show all your buddies at school.

It was my last teaching year. Retirement was beckoning and I took full advantage of the fact that I would not be returning to my teaching position (i.e., I broke a few rules).

Having decided to push the envelope, my first foray into being the nurture-me "bad" employee was to hold a pet-themed Show and Tell week. We had snakes, guinea pigs, salamanders, cats, flies, fish, turtles and one mini piglet. It was an infamous week. The stories from the other teaching "professionals" were looks to die for.

Anyway, the big hit at pet week turned out not to be the mini piglet as you might have guessed, but Spot — a small, sweet, shy and unkempt Poodle-Chihuahua mix. I grew fond of this scruffy little fellow, and so did the mighty first-graders who ran wildly with him during recess. We were all grateful that he slept fitfully during class. Were my lessons that boring? I tried not to take it personally.

Needless to say, I grew attached to the mischievous little eight-week-old pup. Time passed and soon I retired, yet the memory of little Spotty, the show-and-tell dog, lingered. I found myself thinking of him and even considered adopting or fostering a pup.

But I put off all of this canine thinking while a friend and I scooted off to Astoria, Oregon. It was autumn, and my cell phone chirped. Six-year-old Rachel, Spot's "mom," was on the phone — and she was crying.

"Teacher, I need help," she moaned. "My mommy is giving Spot away because I am not taking good care of him." She painfully continued, "Mommy is giving Spot to the pound, and you know what they do to dogs at the pound. Oh, teacher, will you please take my puppy?"

Well, my friend and I wound up our vacation and made our way to little Rachel's house. Spot was cowering in the corner of the garage, waiting to be rescued. He jumped into my arms, looked up at us and smiled. He knew he had found his forever home.

And that is the true, unembellished story of how Elina co-adopted Spot, now called Sputnik Bubba, and the Show and Tell Puppy. And that's the truth!

Ellen R. Gerson, Oakland

A Tribute to Aja Katrina

"Please Mom, can we keep them?" my then thirteen-year-old daughter begged me, referring to a muted Calico of grey, white, and tan who had taken up residence in our woodpile with her five kittens. Still grieving the death of our ten-year-old Sheltie F. Scott Underfoot ("Scotty"), I had no room in my broken heart for a family of cats. Without any qualms I told her "No!" Besides, we were a dog family.

However, I soon found myself feeding the thin, friendly mother who would slink into the woodpile with her catch dangling from her mouth to feed her brood. One chilly rainy day in October, succumbing to the continuous pleadings of my daughter, into the house came kit and caboodle, on

Aja Katrina

the condition that my daughter find friends to adopt the feral kittens. No problem. We successfully located five families. In a few more months, however, we had to locate five more to adopt her second litter! And then she was spayed.

I named her Aja, as her face resembled a map of Asia (and I like Steely Dan). Katrina because she sat with such aristocratic dignity with one polydactyl paw raised gracefully as if posing for a portrait. We were now a cat family.

While Aja and I grew closer, my daughter graduated from college, married, and remained in L.A. I sold my Capitol Hill house and relocated with my best friend Aja to the Bay Area.

Two years later Aja suddenly stopped eating and drinking. A sonogram revealed an abdominal mass for which the vet suggested chemotherapy. But I could not put Aja, now eighteen, through that. My only other option, he told me, was euthanasia.

She was becoming obviously uncomfortable. Continuing to refuse all nourishment, she lay close to a heater with large dilated pupils and a steady purr. We cuddled together on the couch throughout her last day as I tearfully told her how much I loved her, how much she meant to me, how she taught me to be more present, to adapt to new surroundings, to be patient and, most important, to love and be loved.

The next day I tenderly held her in my arms as the vet administered the lethal injections. Only minutes later I stood outside the clinic holding an empty carrier and the shock of what had just happened overwhelmed me. I felt lost. I didn't want to go home, for home would never be the same without my sweet kitty.

The apartment felt hollow, empty. Her toys were scattered around, food and water bowls untouched, wisps of hair everywhere. I needed to talk and cry. I needed a compassionate someone who understood our unique bond to listen. Gratefully I found Betty Carmack's support group in San Francisco and another in Marin, but surprisingly none in the East Bay. I vowed that when my grief healed sufficiently I would create pet loss support groups as a tribute to Aja Katrina. And I did.

Jill Goodfriend, Oakland

My Cat, the Compulsive Eater

Some cats eat to live, but my cat lives to eat. Her name is Mao ("cat" in Chinese) and her whole existence revolves around meals. She wolfs her food down as soon as she sees it and then urps it five minutes later. Before discovering a cure for her compulsive eating habit, I was faced daily with piles of partially digested cat food in surprising locations around the house.

For months I suspected there was either a mysterious ingredient in the cat food that was causing an allergic reaction or perhaps a carb addiction. Cat food is mostly made of corn — not exactly what cats were born to eat. After trial and error with many bags of gourmet, non-corn cat food, I concluded that the real cause was the speed of her eating. She was inhaling her food in sheer panic. Where was this anxiety coming from? A starvation experience from kittenhood? What had her first owners done to her?

A Tibetan Buddhist once told me that anxiety is the karma of animals, even well cared for pets. Although we humans believe pets have a life of ease, they are actually always suffering, anxious about food, laps for naps, or the next vacuum cleaning session. Mao's anxious meows took on a whole new meaning for me: Hey, my bowl is empty! Come see! Wait, you're going out? You'll never come back! Follow me ... see my empty bowl!

Eventually I figured out that she was swallowing her food without chewing. Her kibble was too small to require it. Eureka! I searched for dry food that was bigger and found some cat food shaped more like stars than fish tank pebbles. But my solution had only solved part of the problem. The bigger kibble had slowed her down a bit, but not enough to eliminate the over-eating.

Desperate, I went to Pet Food Express, where each one of the employees is a pet therapist in the making, willing, almost excited to listen to the angst of us pet owners. "I'm thinking some kind of a feeder?" I said, "Not the kind where the cat can access food anytime it wants: a timed thing." The PFE employee was stumped for a mere nanosecond before directing me to a large covered platter with five trays that rotated in timed intervals revealing only one tray at a time. Wahoo! I set up five feeding times coffee-maker style: 6 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m.

At 5:55 p.m. I waited with Mao to see if it would turn. Both of us were nervous. At 6:00 p.m. the machine rotated with a slow grind. Mao jumped straight up into the air aghast. But then she gingerly approached the machine. The food passed the sniff test and the munching began.

Now, the sound of the rotating feeder is music to my kitty's ears. I can leave the house for hours at a time worry free — as long as I remember to fill her feeder.

Heather Merriam, Berkeley ●

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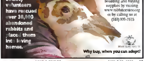

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PET EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

15th [illegible] Bay to Barkers Dog Festival and Fundraiser Meet in the north parking lot for a one-mile walk along the bay, contests, and activities for and with dogs. A fundraiser for the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Sun., July 29, 12-4 p.m., free. 510-845-[illegible]. BerkeleyHumane.org. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy, Berkeley, 510-559-7300, GoldenGateFields.com.

Adoptions at Hudson & Co. With dogs and cats available for adoption from the East Bay SPCA. Second Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. EastBaySPCA.org. Hudson & Co., 4075 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-428-9636, HudsonAndCo.com.

[illegible] Trick or Treat Bring your costumed [illegible] for games, crafts, candy, and to watch animals do [illegible]. Sun., Oct. 28, free. East Bay SPCA Oakland Adoption Center, 8323 Baldwin St., Oakland, 510-569-0702, EastBaySPCA.org.

Bunny Bootcamp With hands-on [illegible] in the basics of rabbit care, [illegible] clicker training, litterboxing and habitat, grooming, feeding, medical care, and much more. For ages 9 and up. Vegan snack included and RSVP required. July 16-20, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. $40 per day/$120 for week. RabbitEARS, 7733 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-6156, RabbitEARS.org.

Dog Bone Alley Adoptions With adoptable dogs and cats from the East Bay SPCA. Starting Jun. 23. Fourth Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. Continues through and 20. EastBaySPCA.org. Dog Bone Alley, 1342 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-3600, DogBoneAlley.com.

East Bay SPCA [illegible] Adoptions With adoptable cats, birds, dogs, rabbits, rats, and reptiles, dog demonstrations, low-cost dog microchipping, [illegible] for kids, [illegible]. Sun., July 22, 12-3 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 54 Washington St., Oakland.

East Bay SPCA Mobile Adoptions With cats and dogs available for adoption. Fourth Sunday of every month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., EastBaySPCA.org. Jack London Square [illegible] Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

East Bay SPCA [illegible] Adoptions With cats and dogs available for adoption. Starting Jan. 17. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Mar. 17. EastBaySPCA.org. Zachary's Chicago Pizza, 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385, Zacharys.com.

[illegible] Cat Foundation Adoptions With [illegible] cats available for adoption. Saturdays, 12-5:30 p.m. [illegible]CatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, North Oakland, 6398 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-923-9500, PetFoodExpress.com.

[illegible] Thursdays Get advice on house training your puppy, grooming basics, or knowing when you need to go to the vet. Leave your dog in your car while [illegible] [illegible] limited to five minutes, or no cats allowed. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. free. [illegible], 2065 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7280, [illegible].com.

Furry Fall Friendly With pet-friendly activities for and including rafts, games, animal meet-and-greets, and more. Sun., Sept. 30, free. East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin, 925-479-9670, EastBaySPCA.org.

Golden State Greyhound Adoptions With Greyhounds available for adoption. Third Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. GoldenGreyhounds.com. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2061 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-864-2222, PetFoodExpress.com.

Guinea Pig Adoption [illegible] With guinea pigs available for [illegible] sweet cake and ice cream. Sat., July 7, 1-4 p.m. RabbitEARS, 7733 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-6155, RabbitEARS.org.

Guinea Pig Boot Camp With training in guinea pig care, including [illegible] litterboxing and habitat, grooming, [illegible], and more. For ages 9 and up. Vegan lunch included and RSVP required. Aug. 13-17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., $40 per day/$120 for week. RabbitEARS, 7733 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-6155, RabbitEARS.org.

Hopalong [illegible] Adoptions A mobile adoption event. Also held at the Rockridge location (5144 Broadway, Oakland) from noon to 3 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. First Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. Hopalong.org. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2061 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-864-2222, PetFoodExpress.com.

Intro to Fostering Workshop Learn about caring for dogs, cats, rabbits, and [illegible] in your home. Sat., June 23, 10-11:30 a.m., free.

Island Cat Adoptions & Adoption With cats available for adoption. First Saturday of every month, 12-3 p.m. ICFCenter.org. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2061 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-864-2222, PetFoodExpress.com.

Maddie's Matchmaker Adoptathon With [illegible] and dog and cat (including puppy and kitten) adoptions in Oakland [illegible]. Maddie's Fund will donate $500 and $2,000 to the shelter for each [illegible] adopted. Visit [illegible] for other East Bay adoptathons available June 9-10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. MaddiesAdoptathon.org. Oakland Animal Services, 1101 29th Ave., Oakland, 510-535-5602, OaklandAnimalServices.org.

Milo Foundation Adoptions With dogs and cats available for adoption. Starting Jun. 6. Every other Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Every other Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Every other Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Continues through Oct. 27. MiloFoundation.org. Pet Food Express, Rockridge, 5144 Broadway, Oakland, 510-654-5866, PetFoodExpress.com.

Molly's Pup-Purrs With mobile pet adoptions at [illegible] Art & Wine Festival (425 Hartz Ave.). Sat., June 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Montclair Village Pet Mayor Help raise funds for the Pet and Wildlife Fund by casting your online vote for Montclair Village's next pet mayor. Candidates include cats, dogs, and even a bird. Through June 17, donation. PetAndWildlife.org/2012MontclairPetMayorPrimary. Montclair Village, Park Blvd. and Thornhill Drive, [illegible] MontclairVillage.com.

Muttville Senior Dog Rescue Adoptions With opportunities to adopt or foster house-trained dogs over seven years old. At Pet Food Express, 1588 S California Blvd., Walnut Creek. First Sunday of every month, 12-3 p.m., 415-272-4172, Muttville.org.

[illegible] Volunteer [illegible] With certification for a community-based literacy program and helps children explore the [illegible] and humans through [illegible] discussion, art, and play. For ages 12 and up. Vegan lunch included and RSVP required. Sat., Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., $45. House Rabbit Society National Headquarters, 148 Broadway, Richmond, 510-970-7575, Rabbit.org/Rabbit-Center/Index.html

Pet Loss Support Group A drop-in group for those preparing for or already grieving the loss of a pet. Third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., donations accepted. Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7735, BerkeleyHumane.org.

Pet Loss Support Group A drop-in group for anyone preparing for or already grieving the end of a pet [illegible]. First Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., donations welcome. [illegible] Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Ln., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible].

Pets and Pals A monthly [illegible] event. Fourth Saturday of every month, 1-5 p.m. Pet Food Express, El Cerrito, 1430 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-231-9990, PetFoodExpress.com.

Pitty Puppies With [illegible] available for adoption. First Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. Pet Food Express, El Cerrito, 1430 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-231-9990, PetFoodExpress.com.

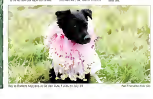
Rabbit Adoptions With rabbits available for adoption from Oakland Animal Services. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. OaklandAnimalServices.org. Pet Food Express, Alameda, 2061 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-864-2222, PetFoodExpress.com.

RabbitEARS Adoptions With rabbits, guinea pigs, and [illegible] available for adoption. Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. RabbitEARS, 7733 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-6155, RabbitEARS.org.

Wine and [illegible] With wine tasting, appetizers, a silent auction and pet adoptions. Sat., Sept. 22, 5-8 p.m., $75.

SERVICES

Berkeley Dog and Cat Hospital 2126 Haste St., Berkeley, 510-848-5041, BerkeleyDogandCat.com. Full vet [illegible] including dental, surgical, dermatological, emergency, and [illegible] for dogs and cats as well as birds, reptiles, and exotic pets.


Bay to Barkers happens at Golden Gate Fields on July 29

Paul A Hernandez/Flickr (CC)

Berkeley East Bay Humane Society 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-845-3633. BerkeleyHumane.org. All-purpose animal-rescue, adoption, and care organization, with additional services including classes, trainings, a spay and neuter clinic, and behavioral advice.

Broadway Pet Hospital 4521 Broadway, Oakland. 510-653-0222. BroadwayPetHospital.com. Offers complete surgical, grooming, behavioral, and preventative care for dogs, cats, rabbits and pocket pets.

[illegible] Cat Clinic 4232 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-530-1610. [illegible].com. Cat-specific clinic offering a variety of services.

Campus Veterinary Clinic 1807 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-548-1212. CampusVeterinary.com. Full-service veterinary clinic, with services including nutritional counseling, basic preventative, routine dental care, [illegible], and more.

[illegible] Veterinary Clinic 944 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-524-3080. Small clinic offering full vaccination and surgical services for dogs and cats.

Doggy [illegible] Pet Care 3712 Lorna Vista Way, [illegible]. 510-454-3074. DoggyLamoPetCare.com. Offers dog-walking primarily, on both a group and individual basis, as well as drop-in care for cats and other housebound animals.

Dog's Best Friend and the Cat's Meow 525 San Pablo Ave., [illegible]. 510-526-7762. DogsBestFriendAndCatsMeow.com. Dog and cat-grooming center, with an [illegible] supply shop.

East Bay SPCA 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. 925-479-9670. EastBaySPCA.org. All-purpose animal-rescue and advocacy organization.

East Bay SPCA 8323 Baldwin St., Oakland. All-purpose animal-rescue and advocacy organization.

East Bay SPCA [illegible] Adoption Center 8323 Baldwin St., Oakland. 510-569-0702. EastBaySPCA.org. All-purpose animal-rescue and advocacy organization, with some adoption and training [illegible].

Fuzzy [illegible] Pet Care 400 Perkins St., #310, Oakland. 510-712-3585. FuzzyBriefsPetCare.com. Offers drop-in visiting and walking [illegible] for vacationing pet owners.

Happy [illegible] Play and Daycare 1501 34th St., Emeryville. 510-547-0647. HappyHound.com. Full-service dog center with offerings including walking, boarding, sitting, training, and adoptions.

[illegible] Veterinary Care 4301 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-339-2900. [illegible].com. Treats conditions such as cancer, kidney disease, and orthopedic problems in dogs and cats, using modern and alternative methods including acupuncture, herbal [illegible] and physical therapy.

[illegible] Rabbit [illegible] 648 Broadway, Richmond. Rabbit.org. Headquarters of the [illegible] nonprofit organization, with services including a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, an adoption center, community education events, and more.

Just Pet Me Country Club 2540 Broadway, Oakland. 510-589-5595. [illegible].com. Offers doggy daycare and spa products as well as a dog and cat hotel.

[illegible] Animal [illegible] 8323 20th Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5602. [illegible].org. All-purpose, city-run animal rescue, education, and [illegible] service.

[illegible] Spay and [illegible] Surgery Center 410 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland. [illegible]. Low-cost spay and neuter services for feral and cats.

[illegible] Veterinary [illegible] 3800 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-530-1373. OaklandVet.com. Full-service dog and cat hospital.

Pawsitively Oakland, [illegible]. 510-595-1328. Pawsitively.com. [illegible] include doggy daycare, walking and grooming, and cat and house sitting.

PETS [illegible] Center 1048 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-6684. PETS[illegible]Center.com. 24-hour emergency clinic with [illegible] preventative care [illegible] as well.

[illegible] Petfood 4234 [illegible]. Grooming supplies. 510-653-8322. Pet pet care store, part veterinary service.

Pride and Pedigree 437 25th St., [illegible]. 510-834-7877. PrideAndPedigree.com. Provides doggy daycare, boarding, and training services.

RabbitEARS 2533 [illegible] Ave., [illegible] Center. 510-825-6355. RabbitEARS.org. Adoption and rescue [illegible] with rabbits as well as chinchillas and other small animals.

Red [illegible] Pet Care 6114 La Salle Ave., Ste. 368, [illegible]. 510-220-3864. RedRiverPets.com. Pet care and boarding service offering walking, sitting, visiting, and various other [illegible].

[illegible]Care [illegible] Boarding Mobile, Oakland. 510-350-8443. [illegible]Boarding.com. Specializes in [illegible], [illegible] dog grooming.

SpaCo [illegible] Grooming [illegible]. 510-501-2620. SpaCoDog.com. [illegible] spa service catering to dogs of various sizes, and [illegible] odor, flea, and tick [illegible] bathing, and trimming, and more.

Superdoggies 3003 El Centro Plaza, El Cerrito. SuperDoggies.com. Bathing, grooming, and walking agency serving the greater East Bay.

University Veterinary Hospital 830 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0700. UVHBerkeley.com. Offers [illegible] [illegible] for dogs and cats, with a special focus on dentistry, dermatology and geriatric care.

VCA Albany Animal Hospital 1550 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-526-1952. VCAHospitals.com/Albany. Provides complete health services for dogs and cats.

Wags and Wiggles [illegible]. 510-547-4672. Provides dog and cat boarding services, including feeding, watering, and daily walks if applicable.

Woofsville 15835 Greenway Dr., San Leandro. 510-220-0814. Woofsville.com. Offers obedience and anti-aggression training, on- and off-leash dog-walking, and boarding services.

SHOPPING

Animal Farm [illegible] Pet Foods & Supplies 1531 San Pablo Ave., [illegible]. 510-525-2913. The store pet shop carries items for dogs, cats, and [illegible] animals and offers customers a frequent-buyer discount card.

Bijo Collars 1640 B University Ave., Berkeley. 510-388-4274. BijoCollars.com. The shop specializes in custom dog [illegible] and [illegible] made from sustainable [illegible].

[illegible] Comforts 208 Jackson St., [illegible]. 510-238-8717. [illegible].com. The shop [illegible] in dog food, toys, and accessories — from biodegradable poop bags to gifts for dogs with mobility issues — and also carries a [illegible] selection of products for [illegible].

Dog Bone Alley 582 Park St., [illegible]. 510-529-[illegible]. DogBoneAlley.com. The shop caters to cats and dogs with products ranging from holistic pet foods to "[illegible]" and and [illegible] in-store adoptions and workshops.

East Bay Vivarium 1827-C Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-841-1400. EastBayVivarium.com. While not technically a zoo, you can find (and buy) [illegible] any (legally obtainable) lizard-like animal here — from frogs and giant pythons to flesh-eating [illegible].

George 1824 Fourth St., [illegible]. 510-644-1033. GeorgeSF.com. The pet shop, which sells products both online and via its SF and [illegible] brick-and-mortars, [illegible] toys, bedding, travel cases, food, [illegible] and more to [illegible] and shop.

[illegible] Island [illegible] St., [illegible]. 510-843-[illegible]. [illegible]Island.com. The store specializes in natural and [illegible] products for cats and dogs, and carries items like hormone-free raw food and herbal and glandular supplements.

Mike's Feed & Pets 710 E 14th St., San Leandro. 510-483-2015. The shop sells live animals like fish, [illegible], and [illegible] along with all the feeds [illegible] by their care.

Paco Collars 1005 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7226. PacoCollars.com. A purveyor of custom [illegible] dog [illegible] and leashes, plus collars for cats and even a little something for humans.

Paws and Claws 3438 Emerald Ave., [illegible]. 510-336-0101. [illegible].com. A natural pet food store and groomer that carries everything from raw kibble foods to [illegible] and [illegible], and offers anesthesia-free teeth cleaning and more.

Paws on Richmond 3931 Richmond Ave., Oakland. 510-601-7297. PawsOnRichmond.com. The little shop carries food and other items for dogs and cats including [illegible] and hosts regular adoption events.

Pet Food Express, [illegible] 2863 Berkeley Ave., Alameda. 510-864-2222. PetFoodExpress.com. The island's supplier of the local chain supplies the [illegible] bevy of products for common house pets and holds regular adoption events and vaccination clinics.

Pet Food Express, Berkeley 1101 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-7777. PetFoodExpress.com. The chain's store Berkeley location offers a multitude of pet products, in-store petwashing, and weekly vaccination clinics.

Pet Food Express, El Cerrito 1430 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-231-8995. PetFoodExpress.com. The shop sells food, [illegible] and other common pet products, provides in-store self-service pet washing, and hosts animal adoptions.

Pet Food Express, [illegible] 2220 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-559-5300. PetFoodExpress.com. One of the chain's [illegible], this [illegible] store sells goods and goodies for dogs, cats and rabbits, fish, and more, and holds weekly vaccination clinics.

Pet Food Express, [illegible] 5918 Telegraph Ave., [illegible]. 510-923-0500. PetFoodExpress.com. The store hosts a self-service pet wash, carries a plethora of products for dogs, cats, and more and hosts vaccination clinics and pet adoptions.

Pet Food Express, Rockridge 5644 [illegible] Way, Oakland. 510-654-5883. PetFoodExpress.com. The store stocks items for adoptions from dogs and cats to birds and rodents, offers self-service pet wash, and holds regular vaccination clinics and animal adoptions.

PETCO 5791 Christie Ave., Emeryville. 510-594-9705. PETCO.com. In addition to food and accessories for dogs, cats, fish, reptiles, and small mammals, the pet supply chain offers full-service grooming, dog walking, pet photography, and more.

PetSmart, Dublin 6800 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin. 925-803-8370. PetSmart.com. The large chain store offers pet grooming, supplies in-store dog walking, and carries a large selection of products for common household pets.

[illegible], Richmond 3190 Klose Way, Richmond. 510-758-8898. [illegible].com. The chain store's Richmond location offers pet grooming and training, along with plenty of products for animals of all sorts.

PetSmart, San Leandro 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-317-1880. [illegible].com. The store sells everything from bedding for cats to cages for and and holds in-store dog training and pet grooming services.

[illegible] Pets 5023 College Ave., [illegible]. 510-428-2785. [illegible]Pets.com. The shop carries a full range of cats' toys, and accessories for dogs and cats.

Your Basic Bird 2940 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7617. YourBasicBird.com. Contrary to its name, the [illegible] shop stocks items for cats, dogs, and other [illegible] animals, though it undoubtedly specializes in accessories for man's [illegible] feathered friends. The store [illegible] a [illegible] gallery while [illegible] the shelves.

DOG PARKS

Albany Bulb 1 Buchanan St., Albany

Cesar Chavez Park 11 Spinnaker Way, Berkeley

Dracena Quarry Park 130 [illegible] Ave., Piedmont

[illegible] Park 3564 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland

Hardy Park 491 Hardy St. at Hwy. 24, [illegible]

[illegible] Park 614 [illegible] St., [illegible]

Berkeley [illegible] Sanborn Dr. in [illegible] Park, just above the [illegible] walking, [illegible]

[illegible] Regional Open Space Preserve Canyon Trl. at [illegible] Ave., [illegible]

[illegible] Washington Dog Park Eighth St. and Portola Ave., Alameda

[illegible] Park 3512 Webster St., [illegible]

[illegible] Park 1701 Hearst Ave., [illegible]

Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline At the north end of Neptune Dr., San Leandro

[illegible] Adjacent to the US Postal Service Bulk Mail Center (2501 Rydin Rd.), and entrance on the west end of Rydin Rd., Richmond

[illegible] Regional Park 7867 [illegible] Rd., Oakland

[illegible] Regional [illegible] 6800 Skyline Blvd., [illegible]

THE SUMMER OF PEACE [illegible] FESTIVAL

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Emmit Powell and the Gospel Elites
The Vukani Mawethu Choir
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CONFERENCE
Saturday, June 23rd
Featuring
Marianne Williamson
James O'Dea
Barbara Marx Hubbard

The Scottish Rite Center · 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland

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www.voicesforpeace.eventbrite.com

www.summerofpeace.net

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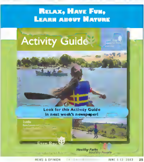
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Activity Guide

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East Bay

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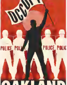
OCCUPY: THE AD CAMPAIGN

Did the Las Vegas tourism board copy a local artist's work?

By Ellen Cushing

Up until a few weeks ago, it's fair to say that Rich Black kept a fairly distant relationship with corporate America. He makes his living as an artist, working mostly for performing-arts organizations — you may recognize him by the name he uses professionally, R. Black, or by the work he's done as the in-house artist for the Berkeley theater company *Shotgun Players* and the local literary series First Person Singular — though he gained some measure of notoriety last year when a poster he created for Occupy Oakland made the rounds locally and nationally in the movement's nascent days. He's got a laconic, friendly speech pattern, a big beautiful bird tattooed just under his right ear, and, though he doesn't necessarily ascribe to any organized political label, he says he's been "deeply moved" by the Occupy movement. Suffice it to say he never expected to find what appeared to be a version of his own work used in part of — of all things — the Las Vegas tourism board's summer ad campaign. But that's exactly what happened.

For Black, it all began on October 25. That night Scott Olsen was hit with a police-fired projectile and the movement experienced its first true, high-profile clash with police, catapulting it into the national eye. Black came home after the protest — a little shaken by what he'd seen, but mostly inspired — sat down at his computer and quickly knocked out a poster in Adobe Illustrator. He put it on Facebook and it quickly spread among his friends and followers, though it wasn't long before he started seeing it in store windows and the hands of strangers. By November it had quickly become one of the more recognizable graphics in a local movement full of them. At this point, Black's seen it reproduced in various ways all over the place: as prominent B-roll in a twelve-minute *Rachel Maddow Show* segment about the November 2 General Strike, as part of the online literature for a farmworkers' rights campaign in the Midwest, and on fliers and Facebook walls near and far. But he was still surprised when, on May 20, a stranger emailed to tell him that he'd seen an eerily similar image used in a web ad for the Las Vegas tourism board.



Rich Black's original work

Side-by-side, the two images look something like fraternal twins, alike enough to be created by the same person — or, at the very least, by people with similar sensibilities — but certainly not exact copies. Black's version, striking in red, black, and tan, features in its foreground a lone protester, his head framed by the sun and his body silhouetted against a line of police officers; a flag in the figure's left hand says "Occupy" in bold type, and below him, in the same typeface, the poster reads "Oakland." The Vegas version, meanwhile, works in a softer palette of turquoise and yellow and has done away with the police; the flag now says "Take Back Your Summer," the campaign's slogan. But the sun and flag still remain, and other than that, the poster's style and central image is mostly unchanged.

For his part, Rob Dondero, executive vice president at R&R Partners, the advertising firm contracted to create the campaign by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, said that the designers responsible for the ad had never seen Black's work, and that any similarities between the two pieces were entirely coincidental. But the resemblance is uncanny, and Black's hypothesis is that it was the result of a young, inexperienced designer replicating something he'd seen before out of necessity or desperation — which would certainly be plausible, given the poster's web traction as well as the replicability and relative simplicity of its design. "To me, it looked like someone was under pressure and had to do something quick, like they were probably under a deadline or something," he said. "It looks really like my poster, but whether it is or not, who knows."

Ultimately, of course, there's no real way to tell what happened. But either way, Black's less angry than amused by the whole thing. After all, he intentionally distributed the poster without a copyright in order to make it easy for other activists to reproduce, so even if R&R has ripped the poster off outright, the firm would be in the clear legally. And besides, Black pointed out, art has a long history of parodying, echoing, and playing off of other people's work for effect, from Sixties-era Uncle Sam and Rosie the Riveter takeoffs up to modern-day send-ups of the iconic "Hope" poster Shepard Fairey designed for the Obama campaign. Black himself freely admits that his own poster isn't wholly original, using motifs culled from propaganda and pop-art to prove a political point. In the art world, the lifecycle of an image is long, and there's no well-defined boundary between parody and plagiarism — and besides, Black said, all bets are off when it comes to advertising. "If you're in commercial art, it doesn't matter," he said, his tone matter-of-fact rather than bitter. "It's the buck."

Favianna Rodriguez, another local activist artist, said Black's situation is far less rare than people outside the art world might think. "This is absolutely common," she said, adding that she's seen her own work, as well as that of people she knows, appropriated elsewhere many times. (Rodriguez knows of artists who've complained and even sued to defend their work, but it seems that more often than not, the artists, up against large corporations with lawyers on retainer, figure it's not worth the hassle.) She's a little less reserved than Black about the phenomenon. "Corporations are always looking to the counterculture — looking to artists — for their campaigns, and I think it's disgusting. We're speaking out against the very things these corporations are trying to market."

After all, companies have long used populist and protest imagery — both original and not — in their advertising: Apple used likenesses of progressive heroes like Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi in its Think Different ads, to this day one of the most famous advertising campaigns in history; the clothing company United Colors of Benetton, too, has long been known for ads that play on activist themes like environmentalism and the right to choose. A video ad from Levi's recent "Go Forth" campaign, the debut of which was unfortunately timed at the apex of the England riots, included scenes of young people standing off against police, silhouetted against a cloud of what looks like tear gas.

In this case especially, the irony runs thick. "Occupy is this whole 'power to the people' thing, and using that in relation to Las Vegas is ..." — Black trailed off for a couple seconds — "interesting." It's also a testament to Occupy's sex appeal. Think about it: A movement has to be pretty attractive to be co-opted by the very entities — big, national ad agencies; the kinds of people who use "branding agent" in daily conversation; one of the world's most notorious conspicuous-consumption capitals — it's railing against. And as Occupy has gone from fringe social movement to fact of American life, it makes sense that advertising agencies would want to cash in on the zeitgeist in any way possible. Earlier this year, the cosmetics company Maybelline drew ire for a series of ads that used Occupy tropes to shill lip balm; another ad, this one for a trading services agency, also made the rounds on the Internet recently as a result of its cheeky invitation to potential customers to "Join the One Percent." Dondero himself even acknowledged, somewhat obliquely, that the Vegas ad campaign was "a response to current events," though he also noted that the image in question was but one part of a large and multipronged campaign. In fact, he said, the firm purposefully avoided doing anything more explicitly Occupy-themed: "It being Vegas, we thought that might present a real mixed message," he said.

Indeed. ◆

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

The Trashy Attraction of the Trailer

A special screening at the Pacific Film Archive makes movie previews the main event.

There's a scene in William Castle's 1960 cult film *13 Ghosts* in which actress Jo Morrow can be seen lying in bed in a negligee, her hands clasped tensely against her chest and her face frozen in terror as she watches a cobwebbed, ghoul-like figure move about her bedroom in the (clearly haunted) mansion left to her family by a late relative. Morrow's horrified visage is precisely what Steve Seid, the Pacific Film Archive's video curator, hopes to elicit from audience members during a one-off screening of *Trailer Trash: A Mini Movie Extravaganza*, a ninety-minute fusillade of forty or more trailers played back-to-back.

A still from 1961's *The Mask*.

Culled from the PFA's film collection and tediously whittled down from several hundred trailers from the Fifties and Sixties, Seid's eclectic compilation merges teasers for gaudy thrillers and campy comedies with others for blockbuster films like Stanley Kubrick's *Lolita*. It might be the only time you'll get to watch in rapid succession Don Knotts declare, as the cringe-worthy Abner Audubon Peacock in *The Love God?*, "I am cursed with an abnormal sexual magnetism for women!"; a sultry Zsa Zsa Gabor imprison hapless male astronauts in *The Queen of Outer Space*; and the infamous *Scream* shower scene.

To be fair, there's a good reason movie trailers aren't typically treated as films unto themselves. Regardless of the content or caliber of the movie being promoted, trailers often rely on the same flashy attention-grabbing techniques common in commercials and other advertisements. Art tends to be subverted by commerce. "Even a wonderful film that doesn't require the hard sell gets the same kind of leveling exaggeration as a terrible film," Seid explained. So it's no surprise that previews can feel a bit superfluous to moviegoers — a useful sneak-peek at upcoming films, sure, but also an opportunity to dash out of the theater for a last-minute bathroom break or a bucket of popcorn, or even an excuse to show up late altogether.

Even as curator of the veritable trailer trove, which screens on Friday, June 8, at 8:30 p.m., Seid has no delusions about the virtues (or lack thereof) of the medium. Still, he finds something endearing about their embellished character. "I've always appreciated the kind of hyperbolic nature of trailers," he said. "Typically, they exploit the film for the most incendiary and gratuitous moments, so they'll pull out the funniest lines or the biggest car chases or the most ridiculous explosions and give you the impression that the entire film is somehow punctuated by these enormous things."

So what will it be like to view such mini movies en masse? "It may be a bit brutal," Seid said, somewhat devilishly. "The only interruption will be when the medics are called in." Whether or not the screening induces heart attacks, seizures, or any other maladies, at least one thing is certain: You should definitely arrive in time for the trailers. $5.50-$9.50. 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu

— Cassie McFadden

ATTRACTIONS

Birds of a Feather With an up-close look at the Tilden's educational [illegible] Sun., June 10, 2-3:30 p.m., free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Observation Hive: Bees Explained Learn how to identify larvae, eggs, and honey in the comb and understand the roles of bees by looking at the garden's observation hive. Sun., June 10, 2-3 p.m., free w/ garden admission. University of Californ Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Screen Printing Demonstration Watch and learn about screenprinting techniques with printmakers Jos Paul Burt and Doug Minkler. Sat., June 9, 2-3:30 p.m., free w/ admission. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Third Annual California Music Industry Summit With workshops, vocal critique, demo listening sessions, live performances, and more. Guest presenters include Mayor Jean Quan, Betty Wright, Kelly G, E-40, and more. June 8-9. $10-$250. Oakland Hilton Oakland Airport Hotel, 1 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland. 510-323-4950.

The Truth About Bees Meet local bees, watch them dance, and learn the importance of healthy bees. Sun., June 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon, free. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Drive. Opening 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Urban Farm Tours The Institute of Urban Homesteading presents tours of fruit and vegetable gardens, urban orchards, goat dairies, wetlands, composting systems, coop designs, and more throughout Oakland and Berkeley. Locations given upon RSVP. Sat., June 9, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. $15-$30. 510-877-3257. IUHOakland.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Butterfly and Bird Festival With nectar garden tours, presentations on composting, bees, birds, and butterflies, and activities for kids. Sun., June 10, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., free. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

Calico's Ten Child at a Time Benefit Picnic @ the Park A fundraising dance with live music, [illegible] games, fire truck tours, balloon animals, [illegible], raffles, a live auction, and more. Sat., June 9, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. $20-$50, free for kids under 2. 510-895-0701. CalicoCenter.org. Preservation Park, 1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland. 510-874-7580. PreservationPark.com.

Coyote Collective Grand Opening and Miniature Grand Party The retail group celebrates with visual art, photography, and jewelry on display, a dance party with DJ Dangerous Nani, a dress-up sidewalk photo shoot with the [illegible] Gallery, and more. Sat., June 9, 5-9 p.m., free. Coyote Counter Collective, 423 40th St., Oakland. CoyoteCounter.com.

Rhythmix Fifth Anniversary Celebration With a ribbon-cutting, live dance performances, the Oakland Youth Chorus, Bay Area Children's Theater, and more. Thu., June 7, 7-9 p.m., free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Sound Communication and Satisfaction Workshop Learn how to identify your tone and boundaries and negotiate with new and long-term partners. Wed., June 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m., free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987. GoodVibes.com.

LGBT

LGBT History Games Tour Meet at the entrance to the [illegible] Gallery for [illegible] LGBT artifacts and a discussion about California's LGBT culture, with a chance to share Berkeley anecdotes. Starting Jun. 10: Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through June 24. free w/ admission. Oakland Museum of Californ

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PICKS

Ask a Ho: Question the Real Professionals

The world of sex work is, by its very nature, shrouded in mystery. Consequently, it can be difficult for someone with an earnest interest in the field to arm themselves with a healthy understanding of things like job safety and the requirements of specific trades. That's why "adult gallery" Feelmore510 (1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) is gathering a small panel of sex workers — from adult dancers and escorts to dominatrixes — to detail the nitty-gritty of their work on Wednesday, June 13. The Sex Workers Outreach Project's Shannon Williams facilitates, and health agencies will be onsite with advice. 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. RSVP required. 510-[illegible]. Feelmore510.com. — Carrie McFadden

Live Oak Park Fair

Live Oak Park Fair

If there were any question as to whether festival season had yet hit the East Bay, the Live Oak Park Fair on Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10, should clear things right up. Now in its 42nd year, the craft-centric festival at Live Oak Park (1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) offers copious activities and attractions for kids and adults alike, with more than one hundred vendors hawking everything from contemporary art to handmade quilts. That's in addition to live comedy, juggling, and puppeteers; music by Tippy Canoe and others; food from Brittany Crepes & Galettes and Carmen's Taqueria; and loads more. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. 510-[illegible] or LiveOakParkFair.com. — CJ

1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Therapy Hey Girl Hey Productions (Oakland). a monthly line dance for women who love women. Saturday of every month, 9-[illegible] p.m. $5. HeyGirlHeyProductions.com. The Art Bar and Lounge, 28 Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

How to Meditate With [illegible] instruction in meditation and a rundown on how to sustain or renew regular practice. Sat., June 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., $45. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

Out of the Shul, Out of the Box: Independent Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremonies An information session for families who might be disconnected from a synagogue but considering planning a Rite of Passage ceremony for their child. Thu., June 7, 6:45-7:45 p.m., free. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]. Afikomen Judaica, 3042 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. 510-655-1977. Afikomen.com.

Women's Sacred Circle: "Inner and Outer 'Clutter' Clearing" Certified soul coach Lia-Lena Weiland hosts a soulful discussion on shifting stagnant energies and creating space in life and relationships. Fri., June 8, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., $25 suggested. Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-3385. JuliesTea.com.

SALES, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Indulge: a Fairyland Annual Gala (Oakland). Fundraiser A fundraising gala for adults with live music, food, drink, and auctions. Costumes encouraged. Thu., June 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m., $125-$175. [illegible]. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: a Fundraising Yard Sale [illegible] furniture, art and [illegible], small appliances, jewelry, CDs, DVDs, games, toys, and sports equipment. No clothing or linens/large items. At [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. Sat., June 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 510-[illegible].

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SOCIAL EVENTS

Art à la Cart at Cerruti Cellars With live step-by-step color mixing and composition, socializing, and wine. Participants leave with a finished painting. Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Continues through June 24. $30. 510-403-1444. ArtalaCartStudios.com. Cerruti Cellars, 100 Webster St., Oakland. 510-550-2900. CerrutiCellars.com.

Art à la Cart at [illegible] With fresh step-by-step color mixing and composition, socializing, and wine. Participants leave with a finished painting. At 1203 Pine St., Oakland. Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. Continues through June 23. $30. 510-403-1444. ArtalaCartStudios.com.

Art à la Cart at the Art Bar With fresh step-by-step color mixing and composition, socializing, and wine. Participants leave with a finished painting. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Continues through June 14. $30. 510-403-1444. ArtalaCartStudios.com. The Art Bar and Lounge, 28 Grand Ave., Oakland. OaklandArtBar.com.

Oakland, Under the Stars With weekly dance lessons and a dance party on the waterfront in Jack London Square courtesy of the [illegible] Dance Studio. Fridays, 8:30-11 p.m. Continues through June 29. free. JackLondonSquare.com.

Oakland Shimmy With weekly yoga accompanied by live music performed by local musicians. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Starline Social Club, 2236 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Bike Repair Class Learn how to fix a flat tire. Sat., June 16, 11 a.m.-noon, free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Bike to Market With bicycle tune-ups, safety adjustments, and free flat repairs plus free bicycle valet registration and Yuba Cargo Bike rentals provided by Bay Area Bikes. Second Sunday of every month, free. InstituteForUrbanLiving PCFMA.com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

East Bay Bike Party The mobile party meets at a designated BART station for a monthly themed ride. Visit website for location and theme. Fri., June 8, 7:30 p.m., free. EastBayBikeParty.Wordpress.com.

Endless Cycles Lake Chabot Night Ride Weekly off-road mountain bike ride for riders by pace and terrain. Bicycle lights required. Riders of all skill levels welcome. Contact [illegible] or 510-470-3151 for more information. Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m., free. Lake Chabot Regional Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley. 510-247-2526. EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

Fast-Pitch Pick-up Softball With weekly adult softball games. Saturdays, 12-2:30 p.m. Continues through Oct 27. free. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] Ball Field, [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Fight Club Play old-school fighting video games, with a tournament at 7:30 p.m. Tournament game determined by participants. Tuesdays, 7-11 p.m. $10. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

Hooping Hoopdancing for people of all ages. Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. LocalHooping.com. Jack London Square Farmer's Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

Pickleball A fast-paced game combining elements of tennis, ping pong, and volleyball. For all ages and experience levels. Played on the [illegible] courts. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., [illegible] people rental. 510-[illegible]. AlbanyCa.org. Ocean View Field, 900 Buchanan St., Albany.

Rhythm & Move Fitness Class With an ongoing weekly fitness session held on the cathedral's plaza. Co-hosted by the Downtown Oakland YMCA. Must RSVP online. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Continues through June 26. free. The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. CTLCathedral.org.

Sand Castle and Sculpture Contest Open to youth, families, and adults. Sat., June 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-[illegible]. EBParks.org.

Title IX 40 Years Later: The Promise and Challenge of Gender Equity in Athletics The annual summer sports [illegible] explores issues related to [illegible] equity in athletics and the impact of Title IX. In the [illegible] building, room [illegible]. June 11-13, [illegible] p.m., free. Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4000. StMarys-ca.edu.

Windsurfing Lessons Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free to members; $15 for three months. CalSailing.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] Marina.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Lovely Ladies (Oakland) With a Victorian croquet game played by Ardenwood Historic Farm volunteers. Sun., June 10, 1-3 p.m. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood. ■

ALL OF US OR NONE

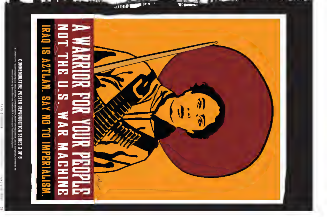
SOCIAL JUSTICE POSTERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

March 31—August 19, 2012 Oakland Museum of California

IN-GALLERY SCREEN PRINTING DEMONSTRATIONS EVERY OTHER SATURDAY museumca.org

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters of the San Francisco Bay Area is generously supported by Oakland Museum of California donors and members. Cataloging of the poster collection was made possible by a generous grant from the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation.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NOT THE U.S. WAR MACHINE
IRAQ IS AZTLAN. SAY NO TO IMPERIALISM.

COMMEMORATIVE POSTER REPRODUCTION SERIES 3 OF 9

[illegible] Favianna Rodriguez, Jesus Barraza, [illegible], [illegible] Imperialism, 2005, Serigraph, edition of 48
Hand-printed by Jesus Barraza, Oakland CA. Courtesy of Favianna Rodriguez.

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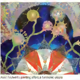

Asad Faulwell's painting offers a harmonic utopia

The View from Here

Group show explores what it means to be an artist in California

To what degree can visual art help define a society and still maintain its aesthetic autonomy? It's kind of a chicken-and-the-egg question. Which came first: the theme or the work? This is the question the Alliance of Artists Communities attempts to address in *Visions from the New California*, a group show up now through June 30 at Kala Gallery (2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley). The exhibit tries to define the Golden State, a pursuit that looms over the conceptual foreground of the work but in the process often inhibits the ability to appreciate the pieces on the basis of their own merit.

The works by nine artists collectively portray a fractured and pluralist vision of California. The artists' individual visions are lost in the cacophony of media throughout the gallery. We are left with more questions than answers. Back to the chicken and the egg: We don't know if the work was made for the show or if it was created independently. The point remains salient. Do we bring our experience of California to the understanding of each work? Might our own prejudices do an injustice to the art? Wouldn't that unfairly reduce art appreciation to a mind game? Of course, this may be the whole point. Only by skillful curation can disparate notions of art ever hope to be unified.

The show does indeed boast some impressive, even indelible, images. Among the best are Justin Lowman's "Knot Site," a work that resembles barn doors backlit by neon, evoking a colorful event over a rural landscape; Crystal Ann Nelson's video, aptly entitled "Bound," which depicts a seemingly calm black woman elaborately, almost ritualistically, tied up with thick white ropes, shown on three monitors; Machiko Yuo's "Lily," a video of paint being poured over a lily, which may be a beautifully grotesque comment on environmental degradation; Asad Faulwell's painting "Zohra Dril #1," which offers a beautifully composed, harmonic utopia where each element is precisely arranged; and Anja Ulfeldt's "Windless Chimes," which uses static electricity to work in an almost magical way, a nod perhaps to California's own technological innovations.

To be fair, this show never claims to be an end-all statement, or even a cohesive, cultural snapshot of California right now. The only clue we are given as to what all this work has in common is in the title of the show itself: *Visions from the New California* — not "Visions of," or even "Visions about." It does seem clear that this exhibit means to present a multifaceted take on the inconceivably varied experience of what it is to be an artist in California, and to this end the show is successful. *Visions from the New California* runs through June 30. 510-841-7000 or Kala.org.

— Ola Kaufmann

ART GALLERIES

Albatross Pub, [illegible] With oil paintings by the Oakland-based artist. Through July 31. [illegible] 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

BAM/PFA, [illegible] An in-depth survey of [illegible] in Northern and Southern California. Through June 17. **UC Berkeley [illegible] of Fine Arts Graduate Exhibition** With works by [illegible]. Through June 17. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu/exhibition/mfa_2012. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Gallery Oakland, [illegible] A solo exhibition of sculptural works that examine personal and collective memory surrounding issues of comfort, identity, and loss. Through June 13. [illegible] 2nd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Bay Area Free Book Exchange, [illegible] + Words: The Artist Series A three-part exhibition featuring [illegible]. Part two: paintings by Philip King. Through June 9. 98520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-785-1291. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Berkeley Public Library, [illegible] With aerial photographs depicting landscapes of agricultural, industrial, and architectural subjects in the Bay Area and beyond by Michael [illegible] in the central catalog lobby. Through Sept. 4. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Cafe [illegible], New Paintings by Gary Burgess Through June 29. 5[illegible] Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Chabot Space & Science [illegible] The Sun as Art With images captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory and the NASA/ESA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. Through Sept. 3. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

[illegible] Contemporary, [illegible] With sculptures and [illegible] of natural objects that are "gilded" with hand-dyed, crocheted yarn by [illegible]. Through July 21. **[illegible]** With graphite drawings and sculptural installation exploring the 42 shades of gray visible to the eye by Steven [illegible]. Through July 21. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery, [illegible] With works by [illegible] local artists, including CSUEB [illegible]. Through June [illegible]. [illegible] B St., Hayward. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery, [illegible] With works [illegible] recycled and upcycled materials by [illegible] and other local artists. Through June 29. 4825 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

The Compound Gallery & [illegible] With works exploring the impact and stresses mankind has imposed on animal life and the natural world, by Crystal Monty. June 2-July 15. [illegible] With works exploring the impact and stresses [illegible] imposed on animal life and the natural world, by Crystal Monty. June 8-July 15. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. TheCompoundGallery.com.

[illegible] Art [illegible] The gallery's annual show features works across [illegible] by [illegible] Mitchell, John Wilson, [illegible], John Martin, Roy Videla, [illegible], and [illegible]. Through June 25. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

David Brower Center, [illegible] Art, Advocacy and the Legacy of David Brower With [illegible] photography by [illegible] landscape photography by [illegible] pioneered by Brower. On [illegible] in the Hazel Wolf Gallery. Through Aug. 31. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

[illegible] Gallery With [illegible] and colorful paintings invoking graffiti and illustration. Through July 28. 821 Washington St., Oakland. 510-272-8013. [illegible]

Doug Adams Gallery, [illegible] Dimensions of Earth With paintings, sculptural installations and drawings

PICKS

In Our Nature

For many years now, the East Bay art scene has been enamored with the ceramic artwork of Crystal Morey. This month, the young artist again shows us why in her first solo show of the year, entitled *In Our Nature*, at The Compound Gallery (1167 65th St., Oakland). In Morey's delicate figurations we see a young master coming into her own. The faraway stare in the eyes of her subjects are certainly beautiful, yet belie the resonant metaphor of ecological connection that her work evokes. In her latest work, Morey expands her repertoire of human busts and explores animal forms on a large scale. Ecological in theme, her works merge the human and animal worlds, which expresses, in her words, "a narrative of connectivity, showing the relationship that lies between humans, animals, and nature." Show opens June 9 and closes with a Sunday afternoon tea on July 15 at 4 p.m. 510-601-1702 or TheCompoundGallery.com — *Obi Kaufmann*

Home

The annual *Home* show at Creative Growth (355 24th St., Oakland) is always something to look forward to. Year after year, it presents the best works produced at the Bay Area's oldest and largest center for artists with disabilities. Compelling, colorful, and fun, the art in this exhibit, subtitled *Natural Selection*, focuses on themes of nature and ecology. More than a dozen artists are represented in this multimedia show that includes work in ceramic, textile, furniture design, drawing, and painting. Creative Growth offers a First Friday gallery experience unlike anything else Art Murmur has to offer: a pleasant, brilliantly lit, joyful place, free of the aloof and overly conceptual atmosphere you may find elsewhere. Those who attend shows here regularly speak of the infectious love that abounds throughout the community, and the quality of the art is just an added perk. Through June 21. 510-836-2340 or CreativeGrowth.org — *O.K.*

original by the natural world by English artist Caroline [illegible]. Through Aug. 24. 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery: Children's Art Gallery, A Celebration of [illegible] Creativity The 10th annual art show features [illegible] by kids aged [illegible] through eighth grade students of the [illegible]. Through June [illegible]. [illegible] Washington St., Oakland.

Forever Fun [illegible] With [illegible] drawings [illegible]. Through June 30. [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] With hand-printed black-and-white photography by [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. **[illegible]** With limited black-and-white photography by [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. 1001 [illegible], Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

The [illegible] Gallery. [illegible] Through June 30. [illegible] St., Oakland. 925-252-8724. [illegible]

[illegible] Community Art Gallery. Spring With works by [illegible]. Through June 14. 5148 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Projects. [illegible] With [illegible]. Through June 16. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-[illegible]. [illegible]

Joseph P. [illegible] With paintings by [illegible] on display in the [illegible] Café. Through June 29. [illegible] On display at the [illegible]. Through June 29. [illegible] St., Oakland. [illegible]

Joyce Gordon Gallery. [illegible] With works [illegible]. Through July 28. [illegible] 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible]

[illegible] Kala With works in a variety of [illegible] by Kala Art Institute-affiliated [illegible]: [illegible] Lucie Anderson, Carrie Holt, Mary Anne Ruth [illegible], [illegible] and more. Through Sept. 8. **Visions from the New [illegible]** [illegible] media, addressing issues ranging from gender and cultural identity to the built environment and mediated nature by [illegible]. Through June 30. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

[illegible] With explorations of [illegible] by [illegible]. Through June 16. [illegible] 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] With new paintings by [illegible]. Through July 14. 412 22nd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] With photographs from Croatia, [illegible]. Through June 14. 4178 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Square [illegible] With paintings and drawings depicting life in Oakland. Through Sept. 14. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] With new paintings and sculptures by [illegible]. Through June 30. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Workshop. [illegible] With a [illegible] of [illegible] paintings and collages by [illegible]. Through July 5. 491 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] of photographs [illegible] by Bay Area artist [illegible]. Through June 30. [illegible], Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through June [illegible]. **[illegible]** With paintings [illegible]. Through June 30. **[illegible]** With [illegible] paper works by [illegible]. Through June 16. 415 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Art & Artifacts. [illegible] With [illegible] by [illegible]

June 8-24. [illegible]. Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Library. [illegible] Art Association Painting [illegible] With paintings by various members of the association. Through June 30. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Painting With [illegible] on paper by [illegible]. Through [illegible] 21. 447 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] With photographs of the Egyptian Revolution by [illegible]. Through June 11. [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Center For The Arts. [illegible] With works [illegible] inspired by [illegible] art and culture [illegible]. June 13-24. [illegible] Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Pro Arts Gallery. East Bay Open Studios 2012: Preview Exhibition With a self-guided tour of more than 400 artworks, displayed salon-style. Through June 30. **East Bay Open Studios** With open studios by more than 400 artists in [illegible] throughout the East Bay. Presented by Pro Arts. Call or visit [illegible] for participating [illegible]. Saturdays, Sundays. Continues through June 10. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArts Gallery.org.

[illegible] Gallery. Fashion [illegible] in Residence The opening of artist [illegible] exhibit. Fri., June 8, 5-8 p.m. 2315 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-865-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. Are You Going With Me? An installation of new paintings by Mitchell Johnson. Through June 15. 455 17th St., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. With works inspired by [illegible]. Through June 30. 4777 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] New work by [illegible]. Through June 30. [illegible] 475 25th St., Oakland.

[illegible] Museum [illegible]. Art and [illegible] in The Garden. The garden's [illegible]

features live [illegible] performances, from [illegible] to jazz. [illegible] performances. Through Oct. 19. 415-[illegible]. [illegible] Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-944-[illegible]. [illegible]

San Pablo Art Gallery. [illegible] Geometry With [illegible] and [illegible] by [illegible]. Through June 24. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

S.H.E.D. Projects. [illegible] With [illegible] sculptural works by [illegible]. Through June 9. 1401 [illegible] St., [illegible]. ShedProjects.org.

SLATE contemporary. [illegible] With works [illegible] by Carol [illegible], Joseph Jordan, [illegible], Jeanne [illegible], and Roy [illegible]; and collage work by [illegible] and Kathleen [illegible] Smith. Through June 16. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-325-[illegible]. SlateArtAndDesign.com.

[illegible]. [illegible] With works [illegible] language by Amy [illegible], [illegible], Mary V. Marsh, and Susan [illegible]. Through June 16. 380 25th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670. [illegible]

[illegible] With handwrought jewelry and works on paper. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through June 10. 2540 [illegible] St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Gallery. On Looking At Things, Empty and Otherwise A solo exhibition of multi-media works by [illegible]. Through July 4. [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Art Gallery. [illegible] With fine art photographs of Patagonia by [illegible]. Through July 15. [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Park Environmental Education Center. [illegible] Art Show With works celebrating nature conservation by [illegible] professional and amateur [illegible]. Through Aug. 31. [illegible], Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

[illegible] With paintings by [illegible], [illegible] by [illegible], photographs by [illegible], and [illegible]. Through June 30. 885 Cedar Ave., Berkeley. 510-524-1114. [illegible]

UC Berkeley [illegible] An exhibition of contemporary photography from [illegible]. Through Aug. 5. [illegible]. 510-642-[illegible]. [illegible]

Gallery. [illegible]. Saturday Stroll A weekly component to Art Murmur, but with fewer [illegible] and more focus on the galleries. Visit [illegible] for the full list of participating [illegible] galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 25th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] A commemorative group show with works [illegible] by Bryson Ward, [illegible] Cartwright, [illegible], [illegible], and others. Through June 30. 471 25th St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. In a New Light Three works from the museum's collection [illegible] to the major cultures of Asia. Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive. [illegible] Photographs by [illegible]. Through Oct. 5. [illegible]

[illegible] Journey to The Land of [illegible] Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Architecture Society. Early Days of [illegible] in the East Bay With photographs of famous East Bay [illegible] from 1900 onward. Through Sept. 28. 1938 Center St., Berkeley. 510-848-0151. [illegible]

C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology. [illegible] An exhibition of antique magic lanterns and glass slides from the turn of the 20th century. Through June 15. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3104.

Children's Creativity Museum. [illegible] Center A hands-on exhibit for kids [illegible] arts, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-820-3320. Creativity.org.

Exploratorium. Traits of Life A [illegible] of exhibits and demonstrations [illegible] the fundamental attributes [illegible] to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0363. Exploratorium.edu.

[illegible] The ongoing [illegible] of Roger Salo-[illegible]'s painting, *[illegible]*. [illegible], *The Missing Pieces*. Daily. 2905 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus locations in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. [illegible] California Cultures The "visible storage" exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection [illegible] Californian cultures. Daily. [illegible], Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Mosaic Art. [illegible] [illegible] through Mosaics An ongoing group show. [illegible] A celebration of arts, in theater, [illegible]. 3901 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Lacis Museum of Textiles. [illegible] An exhibition of antique and vintage hats, including a selection of caps, hoods, and [illegible]. Through Aug. 4. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

[illegible] Hall of Science. [illegible] With an exhibition highlighting the [illegible]. Through Sept. 2. **[illegible]** New features [illegible] globe. [illegible] the oceanic [illegible] globe [illegible] the planet. Daily. [illegible] 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

[illegible] Collection of [illegible] Art and Life. The Magnes Effect: Five Decades of Collecting The first exhibition [illegible] Gallery [illegible] history of collecting, highlighting documents and art acts that [illegible] the milestones of the Magnes effect. Through Aug. 10. **[illegible]** [illegible] works from the museum's collection [illegible] of [illegible] documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **[illegible]** [illegible] installation [illegible] digital family albums and [illegible] based on their own documents, photographs. Daily. **[illegible]** [illegible] video piece [illegible] on the wall, featuring the artist's drawings [illegible] journey down a staircase [illegible]. Through July 4. [illegible] project by Emmanuel [illegible]. Through July 4. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

[illegible] International Airport. [illegible] the Bay A [illegible] exhibit [illegible] exploring [illegible] in the Bay Area in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Through [illegible]. [illegible] Airport Dr., Oakland.

Museum of California. Counterpoint: Lisa Lewton and Peter Toneing[illegible] An ongoing series of work exploring the urban landscape of the East Bay. Through June 15. **[illegible] the Art of [illegible]** The first major survey of the Oakland-based illustrator, featuring original drawings and [illegible] in an inspired installation environment. Through Aug. 12. **The 1968 Exhibit** A multimedia exhibition examining the events of 1968, a turning point for a generation coming of age and a nation at war. Through Aug. 19. Museum admission. **All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters of the San Francisco Bay Area** A comprehensive exhibition exploring the [illegible] renaissance of the mid-1960s, with 60 original political posters as well as posters digitally printed and collaged on the gallery walls. Through Aug. 19. Museum admission. **[illegible]** A video documentary featuring interviews with 150 [illegible] in eleven cities across the US. The [illegible] features [illegible] of family, love, interracial relationships, [illegible], education, violence, and more. Through July 8. Museum admission. **Gallery of California Art** With more than 800 works from the [illegible] collection. Through Dec. 2. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Library. [illegible] Lost Amusement Parks of the East Bay With photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, and other items detailing the history of [illegible], [illegible] Park, and [illegible]. Through June 30. 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum. [illegible] Pinball Exhibit With 15 woodrails and 20 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinball from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hanson, [illegible] Miller, and Michael Schiess. Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. **Adventures in the Society, [illegible] of Pinball** With pinball-inspired physics, mechanics, electronics, art, and history exhibits. Through July 6. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org.

[illegible] Historical Park. [illegible] Journey of Healing An exhibit exploring Cambodian culture and the political upheaval that occurred in the country in the 1970s. With works by Oakland-based Cambodian [illegible]. Through [illegible]. [illegible] 5th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. [illegible]

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. [illegible] Art and Poetry Exhibition With an exhibition of international award-winning children's art from the [illegible] collection, the largest such collection in the world. Through June 14. 1928 Saint Marys Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-CA.edu/Saint-Marys-College-Museum-of-Art.

San Francisco International Airport. A [illegible]: Microscopes from the Age of Enlightenment to the Twentieth Century An exhibit featuring a selection of antique microscopes from the Golub Collection at UC Berkeley. On display in International Terminal A2. Through June 30. 780 McDonnell Rd., San Francisco. 650-821-8211.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. [illegible] The Painting and Sculpture Collection Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Kahlo, [illegible], Rauschenberg, [illegible], et al. Daily. **[illegible] Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's holdings. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: the Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings: shows by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, [illegible], et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum. [illegible] [illegible] memorabilia telling the story of the [illegible] (second-generation Japanese American) troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. **TBM Avenger** WWII torpedo bomber restored by volunteers. Daily. 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org.

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Bay Area Derby Girls
DOUBLE HEADER
JUNE 16
OAKLAND VS. SAN FRANCISCO
RICHMOND VS. BERKELEY
The Craneway Pavilion
BOUTS 6 & 8 PM
$17 ONLINE
$20 at DOOR
bayareaderbygirls.com

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Brendan Lynch With Marvin Boatwright Jr., Gary Anderson, and Keith D'Souza. Hosted by Joe Klocek and [illegible] Kolstad. Thu., June 7, 8 p.m. $10. 510-268-2628. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510.214.2000. MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Foolhouse/510 Comedy Show With Amy Miller, Allison Stevenson, Alina Moody and Natasha Muse. Hosted by Melanie O'Brien. Ages 21 and up. Tue., June 12, 8:30-10 p.m. free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

Magic Factory Mimes & Improv Show Improvisational theater in which mimes [illegible] concepts for audience approval. Sat., June 9, 8:10 p.m. $5-$10. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

[illegible] With [illegible], [illegible] Miller and [illegible]. Hosted by Joe Klocek and [illegible] Kolstad. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. $10. 510-268-2628. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510.214.2000. MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Mortified A comedy showcase with 8 live performances by the people. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. $15-$21. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-455-8733. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Tom Rhodes With [illegible], Alex Shapiro and Malcolm [illegible]. Hosted by Joe Klocek and [illegible] Kolstad. Fri., June 8, 8 p.m. $10. 510-268-2628. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510.214.2000. MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Big Island Paradise and Aloha With a showcase of full-bodied performers including the Phat Fly Girls, [illegible], [illegible], Margarita A. Maybelle, Magnolian Black, [illegible], the ladies of Full Figure Entertainment, Kitty Von Quim, and Rubenesque Burlesque's Juicy D. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m., Sun., June 10, 1 p.m. $30. 510-[illegible]. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/248195. [illegible] Performing Arts Center, 930 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-465-7300.

Carolina Lugo's and Studio Anaba's [illegible] Flamenco Featuring Spanish dancer [illegible]. Sat., June 8, 8 p.m. $25-$28. https://BrownPaperTickets.com/event/227584. Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. 925-314-3400. [illegible].

LIVE VARIETY

Adventures from the Parallel Stream With [illegible] and live performances by Paul Clipson, [illegible]. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. $8. Studio [illegible], [illegible], Oakland. 510-452-4870. [illegible].

The Mad Hari Hustle: A [illegible] of Song, Dance, [illegible] and Murder The Portland-based vaudeville revue features singing, belly dancers, a swing dance duet, a juggling [illegible] and more. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. $12. 503-[illegible]. [illegible]. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100. UptownNightclub.com.

[illegible] A live [illegible] video experience orchestrated by videographer and media artist [illegible] Vargas and cellist and composer Nathan [illegible]. June 8-9, 5:30-8:30 p.m. $7-$12. [illegible]. [illegible] Space, 950 54th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee [illegible] and Josh Milbourne direct the Tony Award-winning musical about six kids vying for the title of spelling bee champion. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through June 10. $20-$24. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley. 510-733-5483. Chanticleers.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 24. $14.50-$25. [illegible] Theatre, [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

[illegible] The world premiere of Ching Chong Chinaman writer Lauren Yee's new comedy. [illegible] Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 9. $10-$20. [illegible] Subterranean Theatre, [illegible], Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

Jeff Raz's The Kipling Hotel: True Misadventures of the Electric Pink Ass Raz's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a stripper and a [illegible] to his stint as a live-in waiter at a retirement hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through June 10. $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

Performance Frames With three separate programs showcasing the work of Cal State East Bay theatre and dance [illegible], including films, two-character plays, monologues, and dance. June 8-9 performances held in the school's Studio Theatre. [illegible] Sundays, 2 p.m. Through June 9, 8 p.m. Continues through June 10. $8-$15. 510-885-3118. [illegible]. Cal State East Bay University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3118. http://Class.CSUEastBay.edu/Theatre.

Skyline Gold 50th Anniversary Showcase. A performance honoring the school's arts alumni, with performances by more than 100 current and former performing arts students. A showcase for Skyline's performing arts program. Sat., June 9, 8 p.m. $10. SkylineGoldShowcase.com. Rawley T. Farnsworth Theatre, 12250 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Sylvia A.R. Gurney's romantic play about the tension that grows between a husband and wife after the husband brings home a street-smart [illegible] named Sylvia. Sundays, noon; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 24. $22-$25. California Conservatory Theatre, 999 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-632-8850. CCT-SL.org.

The Tempest Jonathan Moscone directs Shakespeare's fantastical play about an exiled sorcerer produced by Cal Shakes and performed in an outdoor amphitheater. Continues through June 24. $35-$66. 510-548-9666. CalShakes.org. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Travels With My Aunt [illegible] Graham Greene's comedic play about a retired bank manager and his eccentric aunt. Continues through June 17. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Xanadu [illegible] Center Repertory Company's production of the Broadway musical about a young [illegible], based on the hit 1980 film with Olivia Newton-John. Continues through June 30. $40-$47. CenterREP.org. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]. LesherArtsCenter.org. ■

PICKS

Heather Robinson plays Dr. Stockmann in *The Great Divide*.

The Great Divide

Playwright Adam Chanzit gave himself a rather formidable challenge in writing a play about hydraulic fracking, a subject that doesn't seem all that sexy on the surface. Yet Chanzit found grist for drama in his story about a small town in Garfield County, Colorado, that enjoys a sudden industrial boom when a natural gas company (simply named "The Company") chooses to drill there. Company greed and a Gold Rush mentality proliferate along with the sudden influx of jobs, but no one questions the new form of fuel extraction — that is, until a local doctor discovers that waste products from fracking have contaminated the water supply. Modeled after the protagonist in Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of The People*, Stockmann (Heather Robinson) is an unwieldy moral compass for this fascinating and sanguine play. The plot is a bit too intricate, owing to Chanzit's fixation on representing everyone's point of view. But director Mina Morita staged it artfully, aided by Martin Flynn's stark, geometric set and some excellent character acting. Shotgun Players produced this challenging world premiere which runs through June 17 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $10-$30. 510-841-6500 or ShotgunPlayers.org. — *Rachel Swan*

THEATER REVIEW

BRUISINGLY BLACK N BLUE

Dael Orlandersmith's play is one draft away from greatness.

By Rachel Swan

Orlandersmith becomes each character with gusto.

While it is facile to assume that writers should stick with what they know, there's still no question that writing about someone else's experience is a dicey proposition. That's especially true if the goal is to convey some kind of social message about a wrenchingly uncomfortable issue. At best, you risk sounding like an interloper; at worst, you're dubbed a cultural tourist.

Thus Pulitzer Prize nominee Dael Orlandersmith stacked all the cards against herself in tackling *Black n Blue Boys / Broken Men*, a play about the cycle of male-on-male abuse in working-class environments. To Orlandersmith, it's a pan-cultural problem that stems from poverty, addiction, and learned behaviors. The men in her play — all played by Orlandersmith — endure drubbings from their fathers and grow up to be abusers themselves. They come from disparate backgrounds but their lives bear common threads, and they're all beholden to the same fate. To say that free will is overrated would be a perverse understatement. In the world that Orlandersmith creates, there's really no escape hatch.

Thus her play, directed by Chay Yew, is both brilliant and profoundly unpleasant. It's also brazen. For a 53-year-old African American woman to assume that, by some alchemy, she can inhabit the bodies of a young Latino prostitute, an Irish playboy, a pedophile, an aging janitor in Central Park, a "trick baby," and an eleven-year-old group-home resident is certainly a tall order, and Orlandersmith made it more challenging by opting for a supremely ascetic setup. Her only prop is a chair.

But Orlandersmith is, in many ways, a maximalist. Yew, set designer Daniel Ostling, and lighting designer Ben Stanton gave her a gorgeously low-tech world to inhabit, and she easily makes it her own. Moreover, the playwright becomes each character with gusto, using her large, powerful frame to become the alcoholic father who throws his child down a flight of stairs, or the mother who attempts to seduce her eleven-year-old son, or the old man with a limp who spends his days making shrewd observations about the world. In several scenes she uses the chair as a victim, advancing toward it the way a school bully might lurch toward a smaller child. Sometimes it's her sweetheart. In one scene she and the chair are silhouetted on the wall at stage right, in a way that dramatically distorts their figures — hers is amplified; the chair is made small and meek. She's acting the part of a John at Playland, preying on a twelve-year-old lad.

Orlandersmith can also look small and pliant merely by hunching her shoulders or redistributing her weight, and she does that convincingly throughout the ninety-minute performance, which consists of several interwoven stories, all with similar themes. The material is heavy and often painful, riddled as it is with stories of sodomy, brutality, drug use, exploitation, neglect, and child rape. Orlandersmith is as great a writer as she is a character actor — "unsparing" is the adjective most often used to describe her work, and there's probably no way to avoid it — and she hits high notes throughout. There are moments when the characters use language that seems a little too elevated to be believed, but the points at which the playwright completely loses herself in another person's story balance them. Her portrayal of the Irishman Ian, who escapes an alcoholic father only to be haunted by him as an adult, is mesmerizing.

If you can stomach the material — and it is, at points, quite indigestible — then Orlandersmith's performance pays dividends. In fact, her shortcomings are mainly structural. Her storylines are occasionally hard to parse because they parallel each other so closely. That's probably intentional, since one of the play's underlying ideas is that abuse is both a cyclical and a cross-cultural phenomenon. But it also makes it easy to confuse the characters or jumble their narratives, even with the aid of a video monitor. At points, an audience member might get the impression that she's actually listening to one long story. There's also the problem of ceaseless, merciless bludgeoning: The Billie Holiday record, the references to Dickens, and the lighter tales about social advancement are all calculated to shore up the black-and-blue theme.

Black n Blue is billed as a world premiere at Berkeley Rep, which means it will ultimately go on to other theaters. In the interim, both Orlandersmith and Yew might consider tweaking parts of the script. A couple stories could be cut in the interest of sharpening the material and giving the play a more defined contour. Anyone who's endured a violent experience in real life knows that it doesn't happen all at once — there are moments of intensity, followed by moments of quiet, and there's a point where everything comes to a head. Orlandersmith certainly knows that, too, but she could convey it more effectively. Right now *Black n Blue* is a searing and insightful play. It's one draft away from being a superlative play. ■

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

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TUE, JUNE 12 Hertz Hall

7 pm

SHOSTAKOVICH *Six Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva*
SCHNITTKE Piano Quintet
STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring* (two piano arrangement)

Leif Ove Andsnes, *piano;* **Christianne Stotijn,** *mezzo-soprano;* **Marc-André Hamelin,** *piano;* **Members of the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra**

9 30 pm

JANÁČEK String Quartet No. 1 *Kreutzer Sonata* (with readings from Tolstoy arranged for string orchestra and actor)

Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, Theodore Jensen, *actor;* **Leif Ove Andsnes,** *piano*

WED, JUNE 13 Hertz Hall

7 pm

JANÁČEK String Quartet No. 2 *Intimate Letters*
REINBERT DE LEEUW *Im wunderschönen Monat Mai (In the Merry Month of May)*

Lucy Shelton, *speaker;* **Reinbert de Leeuw,** *piano;* **Norwegian Chamber Orchestra**

9 30 pm

IVES *Concord Sonata*

Marc-André Hamelin, *piano*

THU, JUNE 14 Hertz Hall

7 pm

HAFLIÐI HALLGRÍMSSON *Poemi* Op. 7
BENT SØRENSEN Piano Concerto No. 2 *La Mattina*
BERG Four Songs
BEETHOVEN Piano Sonata No. 21 in C major *Waldstein*

Leif Ove Andsnes, *piano;* **Christianne Stotijn,** *mezzo-soprano;* **Marc-André Hamelin,** *piano;* **Norwegian Chamber Orchestra**

9 30 pm

KURTÁG *Játékok* (selections)
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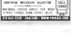
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LECTURES&LIT

In Living Color

Charles Cushman's photographs capture the world as we knew it.

Think of all the pictures you snap from your phone and post instantly online for an extended social circle to admire, your very existence chronicled, tagged, and archived, making the minutiae of everyday life instant works of art history. Charles Cushman began his own personal photo project in 1938, using a 35mm camera and Kodak's new color film. He drove cross-country and back again, taking in everything from the windswept Central Plains to the first planks of our own Carquinez Bridge. And when he died, he bequeathed a box of 14,000 photographs to Indiana University, where historian Eric Sandweiss eventually stumbled upon them, fell in love, and organized them into *The Day in Its Color*. "I tend to be drawn in a general way to those of his images that express some sense of loss," Sandweiss said. "And there are a lot. He was not a melancholy man, but something in his eye was particularly attuned to something that was about to go away." Sandweiss will focus on Cushman's explorations around the Bay Area on Wednesday, June 13, at Builders Booksource (1817 Fourth St., Berkeley), examining how places have changed, or haven't, since the 1940s.

Eric Sandweiss

A farmhand turned ad man, Cushman was not a professional photographer; his images were captured on everyday film. If you're used to a more somber, documentary style take on America, these photos will seem particularly bright, brilliant and sparkling. "People like Cushman saw a flower or a neon sign and thought, 'That's pretty. I want people to see what this looks like in the moment.' And that was the goal." Cushman also captured bits of this country that are immediately familiar: rural landscapes and portraits of hardworking Americans, pink plumes of steel smoke grazing blue skies like apocalyptic sunsets, young urban city centers at rush hour, Packards crowding downtown streets, and folks simply taking time to smile at the man with the camera while sunbathing by the sea.

Sandweiss tried to represent Cushman's perspective throughout the book, selecting and organizing photos as Cushman might have. "I tried to make this Charles Cushman's book — if he had ever put this together, what would he have wanted us to see?" But it wasn't easy, Sandweiss admitted. "He's left a very eloquent visual record, but almost no verbal record. ... Cushman left behind five or six pieces of paper, but he wrote a Dostoevsky novel in his pictures. So the question was, what is the story there?" You'll be tempted to fill in the blanks yourself when you reach page 126, which features dueling pictures of Cushman's rarely mentioned wife, Jean. That's not to spoil what Sandweiss holds as a necessarily chronological surprise, but these two startling portraits are truly worth those proverbial thousand words, and could be their own story of the woman behind the man, and of the private life of the man who photographed the general public.

The Cushmans ended their journey where we begin: in the Bay Area ("easier on his feet and heart," Sandweiss noted), settling in San Francisco's Marina District with a view of the original, crumbling Palace of Fine Arts. For a man who left almost no written record beyond everyday documents like resumés and a wedding certificate, Cushman's life has become an open book. 7 p.m., free. 800-843-2028 or BuildersBooksource.com

— *Alison Peters*

LECTURES

Ron Moreno: "Integrating Digital Methods with Traditional Art Media." The illustrator gives a rendering of the El Cerrito Art Association to discuss his work. Mon., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 510-526-0241. ECerritoArt.org. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Ln., El Cerrito, 510-559-7000.

Billee Sharp: "Lemons and Lavender: The Eco Guide to Better Homekeeping." The author shares her book of recycling, budget-savvy, [illegible] wisdom. Tue., June 12, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley

[illegible] Thomas: "Restoration Lessons for Your Native Garden." The speaker from the Don Edwards SF Bay National Refuge discusses restoring gardens into [illegible]. Tue., June 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-1401.

[illegible] Lee: "One Person Can Make a Big Difference." The founder and CEO of [illegible] Community Trust in Birmingham, England, discusses how she developed a nonprofit to help low-income residents with limited access to social services. Fri., June 8, 12:30-1:30 p.m. 510-845-0058. BerkeleyCityClub.com. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com

[illegible]: "Rising from Tahrir." The Egyptian author discusses his book about the Spring 2011 uprising. Mon., June 11, 6:30 p.m. Old Crow Tattoo & Gallery, 362 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-2108, OldCrowTattoo.com

[illegible] Young: "Immigrant Rights." The [illegible] discusses immigrants in hip-hop, followed by a discussion on immigrant rights. Sat., June 9, 1-3 p.m., $5. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Jon Young: "What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World." The tracker and naturalist discusses his book about birds. Mon., June 11, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7171. BooksInc.net/Berkeley

Kathy Sloane: "Adventures in [illegible]." The photographer and [illegible] discusses and shares her photographs of [illegible]. Wed., June 13, 6-7 p.m. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Panel Discussion: "The Future of Recycling in Berkeley." A discussion about recent trends and innovations in zero waste, with Andy Schneider, City of Berkeley Solid Waste Department; [illegible], City of Berkeley Zero Waste Commission; [illegible], Save the Bay; and Martin Bourque, Ecology Center. Thu., June 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org. YMCA PG&E Teen Center, 2111 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Richie Unterberger: "Blue Suede Jews: Jews in the Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll." The local rock historian discusses the [illegible] major Jewish rock musicians like Lou Reed and Leonard Cohen. Sun., June 10, 2 p.m. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible]: "Wild Birds of the [illegible] Wetlands." The award-winning wildlife photographer discusses her work. Sun., June 10, 7:30 p.m. Tilden Park Environmental Education Center, north end of Central Park Road, Berkeley, 888-327-2757, EBParks.org.

William Hagen: "German History in Modern Times: Four Lives of the Nation." The UC Davis history professor discusses his book about German-speaking central Europe. Thu., June 7, 5:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Anthony Swofford. Discussing his memoir, *Hotels, Hospitals, and Jails*. Thu., June 7, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley

Carlin Romano. Reading from his book *America the Philosophical*. Wed., June 13, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley

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MICHELLE BITTING
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JOSEPH LEASE

TUE JUNE 26 7PM
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PUBLICATION PARTY FOR *FIRE MONKS*

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- 7/18 **Hot Einstein** COVER BAND
- 7/25 **Alexa Morales** VOCALIST
- 8/1 **Megan Slankard** SINGER/SONGWRITER
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PICKS

Amy Reed

From the author of *Beautiful* and *Clean* comes *Crazy*, a love story, naturally. And Amy Reed knows of what she writes. The Seattle-born author spent her formative years in San Francisco, attended film school, got a MFA from New College of California, and experienced the personal-character fodder only the Bay Area can provide. *Crazy* follows Connor on a quest to make (crazy) Izzy love him — trouble is, one of them just might die trying. At Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, June 12, 7 p.m., free. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com. — *Alison Peters*

Christopher Buckley

[illegible] best-selling author, editor, and political satirist Christopher Buckley once worked as chief speechwriter for George H.W. Bush, which is perhaps where he draws inspiration for *They Eat Puppies, Don't They?* Purposefully offensive and amusing, his latest novel skewers US relations with China through a bizarre plot wherein two lobbyists start a rumor that the Chinese secret service is trying to assassinate the Dalai Lama, which in turn provokes a national crisis leading straight to the potential throwing down of arms. Buckley appears at the Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 p.m., $16-$25. 800-838-3006 or BrownPaperTickets.com. — *A.P.*

Christopher Buckley

Aaron Pribble

Aaron Pribble, a former minor-league [illegible], takes baseball fans back to the glory days (one season only) of the Israel Baseball League through *Pitching in the Promised Land*, the story of one man living a dream. Pribble and the league battled romance, politics, and a lineup of unusual characters (including Sandy Koufax) to try to make it in the crazy world of baseball. Alas, it failed. But Pribble had a great time, which made for a great memoir. At the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay (1414 Walnut St., Berkeley) on Thursday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., $8, $6 for members and seniors. 510-848-0237 or JCCEastBay.org. — *A.P.*

Alameda County Summer Reading Game

Children, teens, and adults are invited to participate in the Alameda County Library's annual Summer Reading Game from June 11 through August 11, designed to help minds of all ages stay active during the long, hot summer break (librarians know that the best way to get kids to read is to show them you enjoy books, too). This year's theme focuses on healthy eating. Sign up at any of the Alameda County library branches, from Albany to Union City. Bookmobiles included, and become eligible for prizes and free books. Free. 888-663-0660 or ACLibrary.org. — *A.P.*

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[illegible]

exploring Oakland around skin color, body image, and beauty. Readings by writer Aimee Suzara, [illegible] of the Pagbabalik (Return) Project. Ages 16 and up. RSVP recommended. Sat., June 16, 2-5 p.m. $10-$45. 510-637-0455. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/243538. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.org.

[illegible] Reading from her novel, [illegible]. Thu., June 7, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Joan Frank Reading from her novel *Make It Stay*. Wed., June 13, 7 p.m. Great Good Place for Books, 6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com. free.

Judy Bebelaar, Maureen Lang Day, Gail Todd, [illegible] Christina Hutchins, and Janell Moon Reading from *Turning a Train of Thought Upside Down: An Anthology of Women's Poetry*. Thu., June 7, 7:30 p.m., Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com

[illegible] Reading from his novel, [illegible]. Fri., June 8, 7 p.m. Books Inc. [illegible], 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda

[illegible] Publication Party Celebrating the [illegible] of the CSUEB English department's 30th annual Anthology of [illegible], poetry and [illegible]. With poetry and [illegible] readings, and an open mic. Mon., June 11, 7 p.m. Cal State East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3008. CSUEastBay.edu.

Playreaders A weekly group for [illegible] to read aloud from great plays, changing parts frequently. [illegible] Story Room. Wednesdays, noon. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Emeryville Poet Laureate Janell Moon [illegible] a poetry workshop in which participants write after hearing [illegible] poems. Also appropriate for [illegible] writers. Tue., June 12, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Oakland Public Library Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5001. OaklandLibrary.org.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

[illegible] Saturday Soup A poetry writing workshop led by various writers. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon. Continues through June 8. $25-$35. [illegible] Pleasanton Arts [illegible], 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-846-1367. PleasantonArtsFoundation.org.

Sketchbook Project 2012 World Tour The Art House Co-op brings its touring pop-up sketchbook library to 463 9th St., Ste. 100, Oakland, with thousands of handmade books by more than 7,500 artists from more than 100 countries. Through June 16, 1-9 p.m.; through June 17, 1-5 p.m., free. ArtHouseCoop.com/projects/sketchbookproject2012

[illegible] Kids read from their award-winning [illegible] novel, [illegible] parents, and [illegible]. Sat., June 9, 1 p.m. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

[illegible] The [illegible] author reads from and discusses her work. Sat., June 9, 2:30-4 p.m. Oakland Public Library Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Life [illegible] Mondays, 9:15-11:45 a.m. [illegible] Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-8383. [illegible]

Writing Travel [illegible] Workshop A monthly workshop [illegible] entries from prompts and shared [illegible] feedback. With revisions [illegible] sessions to refine works. Sat., June 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sat., July 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. $100 for series. California College of the Arts, 5212 Broadway, Oakland. 510-594-3712. www.cca.edu

PUBLIC INTEREST

Amnesty International Monthly Meeting All are welcome. Second Monday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com

[illegible] Metaphysical Toastmasters Club of Berkeley Public speaking club with a "metaphysical" emphasis. First and third Thursday of every month, 6:45-8:45 p.m. free. St. [illegible] Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830.

Foster Care and Adoption Info Workshop All parents are welcome to this free adoption workshop, where prospective foster parents can learn about adopting a child in need of a home. Second Tuesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. free. AASK Adopt a Special Kid, 8201 Edgewater Dr., Ste. 103, Oakland. 510-553-1748, x12. AASK.org.

[illegible] Sustainable Meeting Sustainable Neighborhoods With more than 30 interactive workshops and presentations on topics ranging from the basics of cohousing and how to form a community to designing and building it. June 13-17, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. $40-$400. [illegible] Conference.Cohousing.org. Oakland City Center, 500 12th St., Oakland. [illegible]

Social Security and Retirement Planning, Oakland Sponsored by West Coast Financial Wealth Management. Tue., June 12, 2-4 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Center Community Meeting A meeting to discuss management and programming for the [illegible] center. At the St. Mary's Center, 925 Brockhurst St., Oakland. Sat., June 9, 10 a.m.-noon. OaklandNet.com

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam: Featuring Battle of the Day With spoken word and a live [illegible] DJ. Hosted by [illegible] Mike McGee, Betty Gomez, [illegible], Seven, and Katalyn Lucas. [illegible] Wed., June 13, 8 p.m. $8. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com

The Shout Storytellers share 10-minute personal anecdotes. Audience members put their name in a hat for a chance for a six-minute story slot. Mon., June 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $5-$20. 510-375-4020. TheShoutStorytelling.com. Grand Lake Coffee House, 440 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-832-4587. GrandLakeCafe.com.

readindie}

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PEGASUS OAKLAND STAFF PICKS

Ashfall

By Mike Mullin

$16.95

Remember that movie 2012? That supervolcano underneath Yellowstone has been getting some attention lately. I found this book to be a little scary because it seemed like hey this could happen. A fully entertaining and absorbing Y.A. read. I can't wait for the sequel, Ashen Winter. Is it October yet? – MT

Published by Tanglewood Press, 9/07/11

Struck

By Jennifer Bosworth

$17.99

Los Angeles. The big one finally happened, and it's just as bad as everyone thought it would be. For Mia and her brother, it's worse. Their mother is totally checked out, only listening to a doomsday televangelist broadcasting from a tent on the beach. Downtown is completely destroyed and abandoned, not counting the traveling rave that springs up every night. School has become just a place to get a free meal, if you can fight your way through the crowds and cults that have sprung up. And worst of all for Mia, a storm is coming and she is a human lightning rod. Already struck countless times in her life, she wants the lightning. She craves it. But will this final storm be too much for her to handle? – J.P.

Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux 5/8/12

The Case of the Deadly Desperados

By Caroline Lawrence

$18.99

This book starts with a scalping (actually two), continues with a stagecoach chase, stops by a saloon for three rounds of a high-stakes card game, and ends up at the bottom of a mine shaft. What else could you want from a totally excellent Y.A. novel about the Wild West? – J.P.

Published by Penguin 2/16/12

LAUREL BOOKSTORE STAFF PICKS

Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America

By Gustavo Arellano

$25.00

In *Taco USA*, Gustavo Arellano, nationally syndicated columnist and bestselling author of *¡Ask a Mexican!*, traces the roots of Mexican cooking in the U.S. and finds out why salsa has become our #1 condiment with a fascinating narrative that combines history, cultural criticism, personal anecdotes, and an overwhelming passion for cooking and eating.

Published by Scribner 4/10/12

Leafy Greens: An A to Z Guide to 30 Types of Greens Plus More Than 120 Delicious Recipes

By Mark Bittman

$18.99

Our farmer's markets are full of great produce right now and greens of all kinds are in abundance! Bittman tells you all about each of them and has great uses for them as well as dressing recipes for fresh summer salads.

Published by Wiley 4/17/12

Savory Sweet Life: 100 Simply Delicious Recipes for Every Family Occasion

By Alice Currah

$24.99

True, I'm on a cookbook kick. This makes a great gift for new grads, dads or anyone who wants to kick themselves out of a rut.

Good, basic and varied recipes for year round dishes. Plenty of ideas for those neighborhood potlucks too!

Published by William Morrow Cookbooks, 6/5/12

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Café Clem's croque monsieur lacked béchamel and melted cheese on top, but it was still good. Chris Duffey

PARIS ON MY MIND

You can get a good meal at new Frenchy cafes Clem and Jolie. Just don't expect full-on Parisian authenticity

By Luke Tsai

For most of my life I never cared much about France — didn't have a desire to learn the language and thought of cordon bleu as more of a Chinese thing than a French thing. Then my friend Catherine, a Francophile through and through, moved to Brittany and sent emails waxing poetic about the good life: the two-hour lunch breaks, the stinky cheeses you'd get locked up for selling in the States, the universal health care. She had me at two-hour lunch breaks.

Around that time I stumbled across a recipe for croque monsieur, which seemed like the fussiest grilled cheese sandwich ever. Why do you have to trim the ham into a perfect square? Why spend twenty minutes making a béchamel sauce consisting mostly of milk and flour?

But I ended up loving that first monsieur — the crispiness (the "croque") of the browned edges, the perfect melding of ham and melted cheese and béchamel, the fried egg that made it a "madame." Humble bistro food though it might be, it seemed like the height of French sophistication.

So when I heard that two new French cafes had opened — one, Café Clem, the rebirth of an old favorite; the other, Café Jolie, a newcomer in Alameda — I immediately thought of doing a "croque-off," monsieur versus monsieur. As it turned out, neither cafe's version was traditional — or strictly French, even — and I realized I needed to reevaluate my expectations. It wasn't fair to go in expecting Paris.

Café Clem is the La Note spinoff that used to be a couple blocks from the Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley. It closed in 2008, but owner Dorothée Mitrani Bell reopened the cafe a couple of months ago in a hidden-away, eight-hundred-square-foot space across the street from the Berkeley Public Library's main branch. The restaurant's antiquey red-tiled interior is charming in the way only very tiny eateries can be, and its outdoor terrace is pleasant. It's an order-at-the-counter kind of place, with a cheery and efficient staff.

The cafe's biggest challenge, however, is trying to serve a full breakfast and lunch menu without a real kitchen.

This problem manifests itself mostly on the breakfast side of the menu, from which I ordered *les oeufs masseur*: scrambled eggs with toast. Mitrani Bell told me the organic eggs are steamed with a little bit of crème fraîche — not actually scrambled — to honor the "pure state of the egg." This meant the eggs were neither fluffy curds nor a velvety custard, but rather one solid clump — vaguely school-cafeteria-esque, my wife observed. Worse yet, there was a pronounced sulfuric aftertaste. (For soft-scrambled eggs prepared the French way, stick with La Note.)

And Clem's *pain perdu au chocolat*, a sort of pressed French-toast-and-Nutella sandwich, was dry — not having been dipped in much egg batter, if any — and needed something to offset the sweetness of the chocolate-hazelnut spread.

The best items were on the extensive sandwich menu. It's true that the croque monsieur was basically a pressed ham and cheese sandwich — no béchamel, no melted cheese on top. Nevertheless, as a grilled cheese sandwich it was very good. Even better — and unencumbered by prior expectations — was the *saucisson beurre*, which featured a baguette (toasted and well buttered), imported *rosette de Lyon* salami, and sliced cornichons. Simple and delicious.

Since my wife mentioned cafeteria food: Every day at 11:30 a.m., Berkeley High's 3,000 hungry teens hit downtown Berkeley in force, and thirty or so usually end up at Clem for their lunch break. One time I got caught in the stampede, but this only caused my feelings toward the restaurant to warm. Watching a scraggly-haired teen order in halting French and a girl with only five dollars have just enough to buy a sandwich, how could I not be charmed?

Over in Alameda, chef-owner Joann Guitarte calls Café Jolie a "French-American bistro," and the restaurant perhaps tries too hard to recreate some Americanized ideal of Paris: Think lots of colorful posters of can-can girls. Still, it's a bright, pleasant space, and contrary to some early online gripes, I found the service to be warm and attentive.

Guitarte and her partner, Babeck Parandian, opened Jolie in March. If the cafe's menu seems as American as it is French, that's by design. The couple, which owns Bowser's Pizza on the other side of town, felt Alamedans wouldn't go for a full-on French bistro.

So you end up with a mix: There are things like chicken strips and Cobb salad and a run-of-the-mill selection of egg dishes — the "Jolie's Scramble" was pretty bland, the side of breakfast potatoes inadequately crisped. On the other hand, the pastries are imported from France since, according to Parandian, none of the local options are buttery enough. Having tasted both Jolie's chocolate croissants, which were fine, and Feel Good Bakery's exceptional version, available just across town, I call humbug.

As was the case at Clem, the lunch offerings at Jolie fared much better than the breakfast options. Of course there was the croque monsieur, which was more traditional than Clem's version — a somewhat thin béchamel was at least offered on the side as a dipping sauce. The cheese on the outside needed more browning, but all in all it was a solid sandwich.

My favorite item? A chicken burger, of all things. The well-charred all-breast patty was surprisingly moist and had a little bit of a tang. This was served on a toasted brioche bun, along with a generous smear of garlicky aioli. A side of pale, thin-cut fries tasted better than they looked, crisp on the outside and fluffy on the inside, with a true potato flavor.

To echo Jolie's motto: "*C'est bon!*" ◆

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

Café Clem

2020 Kittredge St., Berkeley
510-280-3881
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash, Visa, Mastercard

Sample Menu

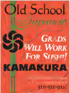
Pain Perdu au Chocolat	$6.50
Croque Monsieur	$6.50

Café Jolie

1500 Webster St., Alameda
510-523-4500
Hours: Daily 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash, all major cards

Sample Menu

Fresh Beignets (half-order)	$6.55
Croque Monsieur	$7.95



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WHAT THE FORK

DONUT SAVANT IS WHERE IT'S AT

Plus experience a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony in Oakland

By Luke Tsai

Last week I paid my first visit to Donut Savant, a new Uptown Oakland shop that's been generating some Internet buzz.

My main takeaways: 1) The doughnuts here aren't full sized — they're elaborations on a theme of doughnut holes. 2) At a time when the baseline rate for any artisan food product — be it a cupcake, pastry, or bagel — seems to be $3, these are a flat-out bargain. Prices range from fifty cents to one dollar. 3) The doughnuts are delicious and habit-forming, and you should go right now.

The other thing about Donut Savant is that it just doesn't *look* like your standard doughnut shop — not with the mid-century modern lounge chairs in front and a display case that's half empty a lot of the time. Owner Laurel Davis is in back making small batches of doughnuts all day long, replenishing the supply as needed, and they're little wee things to begin with, so the case never quite gets filled up.

During my first visit I ordered one of almost everything in the case, and my total bill still came out to only about $6. Later, I sat down with a glass of cold milk to do some sampling. My favorites were the "chocolate dust" and the "schokoladenkuchen": the former a plain cake doughnut dusted with dark chocolate cocoa and crinkly granulated sugar; the latter Davis' riff on German chocolate cake, with the traditional coconut pecan frosting sandwiched in the middle. I appreciated that most of the doughnuts weren't overly sweet.

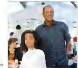
A day later I returned because I'd heard that the heavily hyped "chocolate bombs" would be making an appearance. Imagine: a chocolate doughnut hole with a crackly exterior, deep cocoa flavor, and — in the middle — a burst of oozy bittersweet goodness. The listed ingredients include Irish whiskey, Guinness, and Bailey's, but it wasn't as boozy as you might expect. Next time, I might order a whole tray of these, stick some candles in, and call it my birthday.

When I spoke to Davis, she explained that she decided to focus on making mini-doughnuts — "doughnut (w)holes" — after having seen way too many doughnuts hacked into pieces because people don't want to eat the whole thing themselves.

"This way a person can try one of each without having a stomachache," she said. "And if you just want to have a little something, it's easier to do that."

Meanwhile, Davis conceded that her too-low-to-believe prices might have been a case of poor planning by a first time business owner: She didn't anticipate how many customers would come in and buy a single doughnut and nothing else — no coffee or anything.

Still, Davis said she doesn't expect to tweak her pricing much, if at all.



Bekele and Assegued

Luke Tsai

"I don't want to veer too far away from certain doughnut principles," she said. "They're supposed to be affordable. They're supposed to be this inexpensive snack that anyone can afford."

Donut Savant is located at 1934 Broadway, between 19th and 20th streets. It's open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Coffee As Ritual at Jébeena

On hot days (or rainy days, or under-caffeinated days) at the Grand Lake Farmers Market, savvy market regulars find respite underneath the tent where Ambessaw Assegued and his wife, Dagmawit Bekele, serve coffee in the traditional Ethiopian manner.

When I visited a few Saturdays ago, Bekele sat before a low table, tatami-style, and heated the coffee up over an open flame, using a jug-shaped clay pot known as a *jébeena*. After removing the pot from the heat, she waited for the grounds to settle before gently pouring the brewed coffee into small ceramic cups. At no point was any kind of filter used.

The coffee was rich and smooth — quite unique, with its intensity and mouthfeel falling somewhere between espresso and drip coffee. It was a nice break from the ultra-light, high-acidity coffees that are so in vogue these days.

Watching Bekele work, I was reminded of nothing more than a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. As it turns out, that wasn't a coincidence. Assegued told me he was already importing coffee from a remote forest in the Anfilo region of northwestern Ethiopia when he and his wife attended a Japanese tea ceremony here in Oakland. He thought: "Wow, we have something very similar to this in Ethiopia."

And so Assegued came up with the idea of bringing not just his coffee, but an entire coffee *experience* to the farmers market — the everyday ceremony that a typical Ethiopian household might go through three or four times a day, and a brewing process that's remained essentially unchanged for thousands of years. He and Bekele have been operating their little al fresco cafe since the fall.

Assegued already has plans to expand his business by opening a brick and mortar shop. *Jébeena* Coffee will open at 35 Grand Avenue, near Broadway, by the latter part of this month. The new cafe will combine African and European coffee traditions. In addition to coffee, Assegued will serve Western pastries and breads and perhaps a small number of Ethiopian delicacies. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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Frenchish Restaurants

À Côté
5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469. This cozy restaurant pretends to serve modest little plates of French- and Italian-inspired food. Like risotto balls (saffron flavored and stuffed with braised veal). Or pizza (otherwise known as "asparagus and taleggio cheese flat bread with spring onions"). For a small-plates restaurant the portions are humongous, and so are the flavors. Except when it comes to the french fries. There are never enough french fries. $$$

American Oak
2319 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5800. At American Oak, an unobtrusive whiskey bar on one of the Park Street corridor's quieter blocks, Chef Gabe Cortez serves up cassoulets and wagyu burgers and wood-fired pizzas — fun, approachable gastropub fare that matches, and often outshines, its acclaimed counterparts in Oakland and across the bay. The menu, which changes each month, has lots of updated American comfort food and French bistro fare. Stick to the items cooked in the 900-degree wood burning oven and you can't go wrong: beautifully blistered pizzas and roasted chicken with super-crisp skin and uniformly juicy meat. Contributing to the restaurant's small-town charm, items from nearby vendors like Feel Good Bakery and Tucker's Ice Cream are featured prominently. $$-$$$

BEC's Bistro
2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790. This rambling two-story bar-restaurant nightspot still has the look and vibe of an Irish pub (the building housed Beckett's for a decade), but the entirely revamped menu features organic/sustainable California Mediterranean specialties, some of them unfocused but many of them impressive. Try the delicate flatbread pissaladière, the seasonal farmers' market soup, and the roasted chicken with Brussels sprouts, and don't miss the apple tart for dessert. House cocktails are on the sweet and insubstantial side; nightly DJs make conversation difficult. $$$

Bistro Liaison
1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155. Warm, bustling Liaison has a thick French accent — the oxblood leather banquettes and country cookery knickknacks on the walls seem like they were shipped from the heart of a Parisian bistro. Chef Todd Kniess shows off his fondness for age-old favorites like *coq au vin* and cream-braised sole stuffed with crab, but gives other Frog-friendly dishes, such as quail stuffed with black-truffle risotto, a fresher Californian spin. $$-$$$

Café Rouge
1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440. Berkeley's well-coiffed and well-to-do have taken Café Rouge to heart. It's a classic Californian restaurant, complete with all the trappings: organic vegetables and sustainably raised meats, a wood-fired oven, and smooth and efficient service. Chef Marsha McBride creates deceptively simple food, but lavishes even her hamburgers with juicy, meaty love. Some say her roast chicken with savory bread pudding is one of the best dishes in the region. $$-$$$

Chez Panisse
1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs or 510-548-5049 café. The little house in Berkeley where Alice Waters served her first French *prix fixe* back in 1971 is still the epicenter of Northern California's local foods movement. The nominally more formal downstairs dining room serves a nightly menu that, as always, is like a GPS locator for the current season. Meanwhile, the upstairs café feels a bit like a museum devoted to California Cuisine. Wood-fired pizzas still wear unorthodox toppings (nettles and anchovies, say). Then again, baked goat cheese with garden lettuces has been around so long it feels familiar in the way the best things are — the way that constantly delights. $$$-$$$$

Full Reviews Online
Nearly 600 reviews searchable by food region and price
at EastBayExpress.com
or m.EastBayExpress.com

Chez Simone
4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-[illegible]. For more than twenty years Simone Hamik has been cooking simple dishes from her homeland for diners on the Piedmont strip, and she hasn't changed her formula since she opened. There's been no need: tiny Chez Simone is a slightly tatty charmer, and part of the charm comes from the chef-proprietor herself. The minuscule menu offers quiches, omelets, and crepes, plus a couple of more substantial daily specials. Spend a night on the second-floor landing, with its rickety tables, vine-covered trellis, and fairy lights, and you'll fall under Simone's spell. $$

Grégoire
2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893; 4001B Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444. At Grégoire Jacquet's minuscule takeout restaurant, the affable Frenchman cooks all the food to order. You'll have trouble making it home with your stack of warm, heavenly smelling cardboard boxes without taking at least one peek. (Don't try to keep your hands off the crispy, cheesy potato puffs, because they're best straight out of the fryer.) Lunch features a bevy of memorable sandwiches; dinners are more expensive, albeit casual, restaurant-style entrées like chicken wings and rack of lamb. $-$$

La Note
2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535. Earth-toned decor lends a Provençal air, while a [illegible] and often elbow-to-elbow crowd revels in its belief that no amount of Frenchification is enough. A garden patio lures brunchers, who tuck into egg specialties, pancakes, baguette sandwiches, and more. Dinner specialties such as spicy merguez sausage and ratatouille really do resemble what you'd find on a menu in France. $$-$$$

Lalime's
1329 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-527-9838. One of Berkeley's most Berkeley spots. Each month's menu highlights what local farmers have on hand. The building, a converted house, is a little cozy and a little tony, while the attentive service shows just why Lalime's has lasted 25 years. The prudent, mostly older clientele looks to have been visiting since the restaurant opened; one senses the appeal is in the familiarity. $$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677. [illegible] Luka's has [illegible]. Suited-up professionals, hipsters, retirees, [illegible] up at this stylish bar, restaurant, and club. Channeling a [illegible] brasserie theme, the menu showcases Belgian beers, mussels, and fries — some of the best in Oakland. The creatively conceived entrées sometimes read better than they taste, but the cooks deliver on the basics, and it's hard to find anywhere else downtown where you can eat so well after nine. $$-$$$

Nizza La Bella
825 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552. This casual bistro, whose name means "Nice, the Beautiful" in Niçoise dialect, serves up regional food that fuses Southern French and Northern Italian cuisine. Try anything that comes out of the wood-fired oven. Fortunately that's a lot — pizzas, roast meats, gratinéed pastas, and even stews and mussels. Some people come just for the Franco-Italo-American cocktails. $$$

Rendez Vous Cafe Bistro
1111 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-4111. This friendly, colorful Albany hangout serves up classic examples of French bistro fare, some of them on the faux side, oth-

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REVOLUTION

THE BEST OF THE EAST BAY 2012

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Best of the East Bay 2012 Cover Contest

Calling all artists and designers! The *East Bay Express* is holding a design contest for the cover of its Best of the East Bay 2012 issue. The winner will win $500 in cash, plus $500 in gift certificates to local businesses. Artwork must be the creator's own and relate to the issue's theme, which is "Revolution." The concept can be interpreted however you see fit – whether it's defined as something new, groundbreaking, game-changing, subversive, outspoken, politically active, unapologetic, provocative, or irreverent. Bonus points if the design incorporates elements of life in the East Bay.

Submissions are welcome from all ages, from any geographic location. The winning design, chosen by *Express* staff, will be featured on the cover of the Best of the East Bay 2012 issue, which streets July 18, 2012.

Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2012.

For contest rules and guidelines on how to submit, go to EastBayExpress.com/2012bestofcovercontest

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Ajanta

1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-4373. With its fancy light fixtures, white tablecloths, and elaborate silverware (a big fork and a little fork), Ajanta is one of the East Bay's more elegant Indian restaurants. More importantly, the food is as varied as it is refined, with a focus on creative preparations of harder-to-find regional specialties. Chef-owner Lachu Moorjani eschews typical curry-house standards such as *chana masala* and *aloo gobi*. Instead, the rotating menu of regional dishes might include things like *[illegible]* — perfectly cooked fish fillets served over a lush caramelized onion sauce — or *[illegible]*, a South Indian braised lamb dish with all the richness and depth of a good beef bourguignon. Even humble offerings like the mango lassi and the assortment of naan breads are much better than average. Reservations recommended. $$-$$$

American Oak

[illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]. At American Oak, an [illegible] whiskey bar on one of the Park Street corridor's quieter blocks, Chef Gabe Cortez serves up cassoulets and wagyu burgers and wood-fired pizzas — fun, approachable gastropub fare that matches, and often outshines, its [illegible] counterparts in Oakland and across the bay. The menu, which changes each month, is a mix of updated American comfort food and French bistro fare. Stick to the items cooked in the 900-degree wood-burning oven and you can't go wrong: beautifully blistered pizzas and roasted chicken with super-crisp skin and uniformly juicy meat. $$-$$$

Nature Vegetarian Restaurant

[illegible] Franklin St., Oakland, 510-238-9888. The Chinese have a long and comfortable history of mock-meat consumption, harkening back to food served to alms-givers at Buddhist temples a thousand years ago. And diners craving vegetarian versions of their favorite Chinese dishes would be hard-pressed to find a better option than Nature Vegetarian Restaurant, where chef-owner Jim Lau, a devout Buddhist himself, makes all of the restaurant's gluten- and soy-based meat substitutes in-house. Menu highlights include the spectacularly crispy sesame chicken and stuffed eggplant that's batter-fried, shaped like a whole fish, and served tableside. During off-peak hours, vegetarian versions of traditional dim sum items (roast pork buns, siu mai, etc.) are served. $-$$

Divino

[illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-841-5200. For a place that prides itself on serving "seasonal and local comfort food" — all those of-the-moment buzzwords, with gluten-free pizza to boot — Berkeley's Divino is refreshingly devoid of self-importance. Executive chef Jean Gallagher serves unfussy Italian fare in a warm and welcoming setting. As a general rule of thumb, the simplest menu items tend to be best. Highlights include the fresh pastas, the *[illegible]* (fried risotto balls) and the homemade Italian sodas. The pastas and pizzas all come in both regular and gluten-free versions, and many dishes can be prepared vegan upon request. The Sunday brunch menu is more classic American than Italian. $$-$$$

Homeroom Racing Cafe

1303/1307 Park St., Alameda 510-[illegible]. Kids and hobbyists gravitate toward the miniaturized Grand Prix racetrack that fills the back room, while hungry diners dig into chef Arista Saengchan's homestyle Thai cuisine up front. Saengchan's "country-style" Thai cooking isn't especially fancy or challenging to the Western palate, but it is abundant with herbs and aromatics, everything well-executed and freshly prepared. The papaya salad impresses with bright flavors while the [illegible] menu rice soup is the perfect "sick person's food," especially if you're a cilantro lover. For something unique, try the spicy Thai-style burger: the kind of East-West mash-up you might imagine pulling off the grill at some Thai-American family's backyard barbecue. Don't forget to check out the slot-car racing in back. $

VICTORY burger

Kickstart North Oakland!

Victory Burger is a new restaurant project by your neighbors at Actual Cafe. We're getting ready to break ground on construction, and hope to be open this fall. We're raising money on Kickstarter which will allow us to make the outside of the restaurant really beautiful, and further enhance the livability of our corner and the Golden Gate neighborhood.

Please help us. We'll do right by you.

Our campaign ends this Friday, June 8 - don't wait! VICTORY begins with YOU!

please support our kickstarter campaign: http://kck.st/vburger

are perfectly soulful and satisfying. The daube (braised beef) and coq au vin (chicken in red wine) are rich, tender and tasty. Brie- and garlic-stuffed gougère puffs make a delectable appetizer. (The onion soup and bouillabaisse are best avoided.) Get the towering strawberry shortcake with strawberry ice cream for dessert. Generous, affordable portions. $$

Revival Bar & Kitchen

2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-549-9950. Amy Murray's bustling downtown [illegible] celebrates the Bay Area's bounty of fresh, organic foodstuffs with flair and a sense of fun. Fig and [illegible] flatbread, creamy pork rillettes with lemon chutney, handmade pasta with pea tendrils and trumpet mushrooms, and a mixed pig plate of sausage, tenderloin, shoulder, and belly are among the menu standouts. Get the fruit galette for dessert. [illegible] the cocktail menu, well-chosen wine list. $$$

Rivoli

1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-526-2542. Chef Wendy Brucker's inventive Cal-Mediterranean cooking continues to delight after sixteen years, even if a few of the kitchen's more complex taste-texture combinations are less focused than they could be. The regularly changing menu highlights seasonal organic and locally raised ingredients in dishes like spring-onion gnocchi with English peas, grilled salmon with snap-pea risotto, and chicken roulade with asparagus, couscous, and pine nuts. The warm chocolate pecan cake is dreamy. Well-selected wine list, lovely garden setting. $$$$

Southie

6311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0100. Wood Tavern's casual, cozy next-door offshoot serves a brief yet tantalizing menu of artisan sandwiches (the Dungeness crab roll with aioli is especially toothsome) as well as a soup of the day, a couple of cutting-edge crostini, and a few salads (get the poached egg and bacon with frisée and [illegible]). Sarah's Whoopie Pie — carrot cake layered with cream cheese ice cream — is one of the East Bay's outstanding desserts, and there are two rotating beers and three or four rotating wines on tap. The tiny tables, counter seating and friendly, noisy atmo make the place ideal for takeout orders, single diners, and couples. $$$

Zut!

1820 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-0444. This handsome addition to the Fourth Street shopping and dining scene serves imaginative regional Mediterranean dishes crafted from freshly plucked local ingredients. Chorizo-stuffed squid, smoky lamb meatballs, thin-crust [illegible] with fresh mozzarella, and side dishes of greens, lentils, beets, and polenta are among the menu's standouts; some of the other dishes are on the overcooked side. Get the seasonal granita for dessert and one of the yummy [illegible] cocktails at the zinc-topped bar. Sidewalk seating and retractable skylight, classy yet inviting amber/glass/polished-wood/earth-toned setting. $$$

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

LAST CALL

WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

The alternative universe of 19th Street Station

By Ellen Cushing

The bar is cluttered with schwag. Ellen Cushing

The people of 19th Street Station are, I'm sure, good at many things, but they excel at shooting the shit. Topics discussed on a recent Monday evening, for example: the implausibility of a recent sci-fi movie (something about the plasma); San Antonio's offense (apparently they shoulda went with Robinson); the song "Every Breath You Take" (only good in a karaoke contest and nowhere else, it is decided); the pronunciation of Zach Galifianakis' last name (phonetically, goes the final call). The regulars, who are everyone, argue and laugh and patter about everything and nothing; sometimes they stop talking altogether, no questions asked, if someone's doing something exceptionally exciting on one of the TV screens. People ask each other about their families and pipe into arguments from across the room and generally interact in a way that transcends the kind of temporary appreciation you have for someone with which you share oxygen and a bartender's attention. And that's about when you realize that this bar is very different from all other bars.

19th Street Station has only ever had one bartender: Roy Mejia bought the place for $500 in 1982, and in two decades, he says, he has never been sick, nor has he ever taken a vacation. (Take that, Cal Ripken Jr.) He's never advertised, either, and actually prefers to call the place a hangout or a social club rather than a bar because he likes to think that he's serving friends rather than customers.

There are two rules at 19th Street Station: no cursing and no trouble. There's never been a fight in the bar's history, according to Mejia, nor has he ever seen graffiti in the bathroom. You can smoke, completely legally — the codes have an exemption for establishments that are owned and operated by the same person — but the place is surprisingly, odorfully hospitable even to non-smokers. Mejia is the kind of person who will ask you to pardon his language before using the word "sucks" and, who, as a matter of policy, will consult with a woman first if a man wants to buy her a drink ("most bars, they just want to make money, so they'll sell to whoever. I don't care about that," he said, proudly), so you get the sense that the relative orderliness of the place is less a result of Mejia's running a tight ship than it is of the fact that the people of 19th Street Station know each other very, very well.

19th Street Station
339 19th St., Oakland
510-893-1919
Hours: Mon.-Fri., until 8 p.m.

Mejia's a Luddite and only has a Beta video player at home; when Doug, one of the regulars, found a copy of his favorite movie, Beaches, on Beta, Roy traded him a week's tab for it. When a customer's car breaks down, Roy has been known to help him do his errands in his forty-year-old truck. Everyone who's been more than a couple times has a nickname. The whole setup feels a lot more like a place you'd find in a tiny town off the highway or, more accurately, television than you would sandwiched between a shoe-repair place and a perpetually-blinded-up storefront a couple blocks away from BART in downtown Oakland, but here it is. The walls are cluttered with sports memorabilia, what appears to be every piece of schwag a liquor company has ever sent, and pictures — lots of pictures — of customers old and new, of former Giants manager Dusty Baker (a friend of Mejia's), of a much-younger Mejia smiling wide in a much younger 19th Street Station. A big sign at the bar says "NO SNIVELING" — perhaps a third rule, or a subsection of the "no troublin'" dictum. The register is aging and decidedly analog, the phone is rotary. A big, foamy, overflowing Hefeweizen is $4. It feels a little like an alternate universe, to be honest.

By virtue of the one-bartender thing or the not caring about money thing, 19th Street Station has spectacularly weird hours, a schedule that's essentially a complete mirror-image of that of every other bar on the planet: Monday through Friday, and until 8 p.m. only. But if someone has just ordered a drink or is having a bad day, Mejia will stay open later, still chatting as he sponges off the bar and checks the bathrooms for messes, which there never are. Finally, at 8:15 or 8:20, Doug and Wendy and Dre and everyone else will file out, exchanging high fives and offers for rides home and kisses on the cheek as they do. If you're a reporter or just a newcomer who's been asking questions, Mejia might pluck a green cotton T-shirt off a pile sent to him free by a liquor company and hand it to you wordlessly. Then he'll look you in the eye and say, as if in response to a question you never asked: "Yeah, I wouldn't trade this for anything." You'll have no chance but to agree with him. ●

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[illegible] With local craft beer, [illegible] sausages, [illegible] Village cars, art, and more. Saturdays, 2-8 p.m. Free. [illegible] 411 26th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Oakland [illegible] Wine Parade [illegible] featuring [illegible] from the East Bay [illegible], commemorative wine glasses, food, live jazz music, and artwork on display. Sat., June 9. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., [illegible]. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

Eats Off Broadway With rotating food trucks including [illegible] Tamale, Doc's of the Bay, [illegible] Breakfast Truck, [illegible] Pot of Flour and more. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12. 510-[illegible]. EatsOffBroadway.com. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland. 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Clay Street Food Pod With various mobile food vendors on Clay Street, Oakland. 14th and 15th streets. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

[illegible] Bring a dish prepared from DIY Delicious, produce and bread for Simple Food from Scratch for a [illegible] potluck. With a visit by the book's author Vanessa Barrington. Sat., June 9, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. 510-[illegible]. Mosswood Park, 3612 Webster St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] in the Country Kitchen [illegible] in a wood burning stove, learn about outdoor cooking, and [illegible] historic recipes. Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Continues through June 24. Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. 510-544-2797. EBParks.org/Parks/Ardenwood.

Dashe Cellars Summer Open House BBQ With tastings of new releases, food, samples of 2011 wines, barbecue (with veggie options), live bluegrass music by The Bay Island Ramblers, activities for kids, and more. Sat., June 9, 1-5 p.m. Dashe Cellars, 55 4th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. DasheCellars.com.

Ecology Center [illegible] Market [illegible] With chef Rudy Grivas, [illegible] and The Healing Hearth. Tue., June 12, 3-4 p.m. Free. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Center St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

An Evening with the Winemaker Featuring [illegible] Vineyards Merlot, [illegible] Blanc, and McCall Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, paired with [illegible]. At The Winemaker's Pour House (2241 First St., Livermore). Wed., June 13, 6-8 p.m. 925-215-2956. WinemakersPourHouse.com.

Honey Evening [illegible] Bryan [illegible] of Her Majesty's Secret Beekeeper leads an informal honey tasting. Sun., June 10, 1-2 p.m. [illegible]. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., [illegible]. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] With a [illegible] Wed., June 13, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] With Golden [illegible] Brewing. Wed., June 13, 8 p.m., free. Beer Revolution, 464 3rd St., Oakland. 510-452-2337. BeerRevolution.com.

[illegible] A hands-on workshop with demonstrations and [illegible] turkey and other small [illegible]. Sun., June 10, 7-8 p.m. [illegible] The [illegible] Market Shop, [illegible] Ave., [illegible]. 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Supper Club With a [illegible] of sustainable seafood from Monterey Fish Market and wine pairings from [illegible] Cellars and [illegible]. Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. [illegible] 55 Market St., Oakland. 510-444-1733. [illegible]

[illegible] Food Pod With Studio mobile food vendors. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] Park, 1970 [illegible] St., Oakland.

Splash Pad Food Pod With market mobile food [illegible]. Saturdays, 5-8 p.m. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Studio One Food Hall With various Studio food vendors. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St., Oakland. 510-597-5027. StudioOneArtCenter.net.

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. [illegible] Alameda Farmers' market. [illegible] Ave. at Victoria St. [illegible]

Albany Farmers' Market With all local seasonal produce and prepared foods. [illegible] Solano Avenue between San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street. Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m. Continues through Oct. 31. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

[illegible] Farm Fresh [illegible] Produce [illegible] Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] 1716 Eighth St. [illegible] 510-[illegible]

Bayfair [illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-[illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] Farm Fresh [illegible] Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. Free. 510-[illegible]. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Community Center, San Pablo Park, [illegible] St., [illegible] Berkeley.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, bread, seasonal and more. [illegible] WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-[illegible]. UnityCouncil.org.

[illegible] Lake Farmers' [illegible] The weekly market hosts more than 70 producers, [illegible] foods, locals, [illegible] Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. [illegible] Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 35 [illegible] and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. [illegible] Hayward City Hall [illegible] 777 B St., Hayward. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Kensington Farmers' [illegible] With a [illegible] fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, [illegible] vegetables, nuts, [illegible] fresh pasta, and seasonal [illegible]. The market also hosts live music and [illegible]. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-[illegible]. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. [illegible] Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' [illegible] [illegible] organic produce from [illegible] Farm and a youth-led prepared food [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 510-[illegible]. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel [illegible] Farmers' Market, 4072 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free Parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

[illegible] Berkeley Farmers' Market With [illegible] specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Oakland Arlington [illegible] Center Produce [illegible] With produce and [illegible] products sold by [illegible] vendors, including [illegible] Farms, [illegible] Coffee Collective, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. [illegible] Oakland Farmers' Market, Arlington Market Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Produce [illegible] produce, breads, oils and other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Old Oakland Farmers Market, 9th St., Oakland. Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. [illegible]

Pacific Coast [illegible] Farmers' Market With [illegible] produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked [illegible] cut flowers, specialty foods, [illegible] live music, and arts and foods. [illegible] Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Jack London Square, 5th Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With [illegible] locally grown fruit, live [illegible] flowers, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With [illegible] and organic vendors, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-6550. CI.Berkeley.CA.Us/[illegible]

[illegible] Farmers' Market California [illegible] Market offer [illegible] produce, fresh fruits and nuts, [illegible] eggs, [illegible] goods, locally [illegible] fish, fresh-cut [illegible] and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] Parking Lot, 5500 [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

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Youth-Led Farm Stand The [illegible] in the heart of the Foothill [illegible] neighborhood [illegible] produce, from regional [illegible] and [illegible], along with [illegible] dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10739 MacArthur Blvd., [illegible]. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com ■

PICK

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It bolsters quick bread recipes, it adds a certain something to stews, and it tenderizes beef. Is there anything beer can't do — especially in the hands of a celebrity chef? At Pyramid Alehouse (1410 Locust St., Walnut Creek), former Top Chef contestant and current San Francisco restaurateur Ryan Scott hosts a beer-themed live broadcast for his KGO radio show *Cooking with Ryan Scott* on Saturday, June 9. Samples of Scott's beer-infused food concoctions and beer-based cocktails will be served. 4 p.m., free. 925-946-1520 or PyramidBrew.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

Ryan Scott

TOUGH STEPMOMS, INC.

In Moscow (*Elena*) and Fairyland (*Snow White and the Huntsman*)

By Kelly Vance

Kristen Stewart brings bits of her *Twilight* character to *Snow White and the Huntsman*

Where's Dopey? That's the first question that comes to mind for Rupert Sanders' live-action fantasy rehab, *Snow White and the Huntsman*. It's hard to picture Snow White without those lovable little guys buzzing her in the Walt Disney version. Now that the Seven Dwarfs have been demoted, are we supposed to feel glad they've been replaced by Chris Hemsworth (aka the Mighty Thor), a jock-like working stiff in a leather jerkin?

Turns out the dwarfs didn't exactly fit the new demographic. Snow White is played by Kristen Stewart, the princess of *Twilight*, and the beloved Disney fairy tale has been torn down and rebuilt around her image from that cash-dispensing, young female-magnet gothic romantic franchise. This Snow White doesn't need a bunch of tiny nerds hanging on her — she needs a beefy admirer like The Huntsman (Hemsworth), the tough guy with a broken heart, a paid killer who falls in love with his mark. And maybe, just for fun, running a close second, handsome nobleman William (Sam Claflin), a storybook Prince Charming perhaps a tad too delicate for this rough and tumble story.

Neither of the boys, however, can go one round in the ring with SW's stepmother and nemesis, Evil Queen Ravenna, played by Charlize Theron as a heart-stopping, life-sucking, vampire sorceress whose wicked dominion has caused the countryside to wither and putrefy for miles around. The bit with the magic mirror and the milk bathing Evil Queen's vanity is maximized for all it's worth, but it's not merely jealousy that drives the catfight. Ravenna hates Snow White like Anne hates a white shag rug. Stewart is a truly poor actress, but she looks cool and confident next to Theron's outrageous overacting. The hamming is nonstop. Not since Angelina Jolie's snake dance in *Alexander* have we seen anything as monstrously silly as the sight of old wrinkled Ravenna, covered in gooey tar, slithering across the castle floor. But maybe it's unfair to pile on. *Snow White and the Huntsman* is a vehicle for a concept, not a character.

When the Seven Dwarfs finally appear, there are eight of them. But even adjusted for inflation, it's a step backward. Rookie director Sanders tries to compensate for the lack of elfin glee by casting a squad of good British actors — Ian McShane, Ray Winstone, Bob Hoskins, Eddie Marsan, Toby Jones, et al — and giving them Hobbit-style handles like Beith and Quert. Doesn't work, they're all Grumpy. Later on, they become useful to SW as a sort of dwarf insurgency against the EQ.

The Evil Queen has a cruel freakish brother named Finn (Sam Spruell) with pasty white skin and scars. Everyone in the film has at least one scar, especially in the all-female village Snow White visits, where the women have banded together for protection from marauding men — the scars are ostensibly to make them less attractive to potential rapists. That feminist tinge dovetails well with Ravenna and SW's lethal rivalry, but everything in the movie is overpowered by dumb CGI thrown on top of more dumb CGI. The battle scenes are as inert and lifeless as anything in *Red Riding Hood*, another dire makeover of a children's classic. But there are a couple of nice exceptions in the magic forest: toadstools with eyes, moss-covered snakes, and a pair of pale fairies who emerge from inside birds.

In the end, just like the eternally delayed decision in the *Twilight* series, Snow White can't make up her mind whether to swing with the stalwart hunk or the poetic stripling with the scraggly beard. We'd bet against there ever being a sequel, so the denouement could well be left dangling for the rest of time. *Snow White and the Huntsman* was produced by the same company who made *Alice in Wonderland* with Tim Burton. The comparison ends there.

It's not so much that the transition from a child's point of view to that of an adolescent makes the new version more trivial, but in trying to cram the story into another framework, most of its original charm goes missing. This tired exercise borrows freely from *Lord of the Rings*, *Princess Mononoke*, and Luc Besson's *The Messenger*, in addition to the *Twilight* movies, and never manages much of a spark of personality from Stewart and Theron's loud, empty performances. It's poison apple filmmaking.

Snow White and the Huntsman

Directed by Rupert Sanders. With Kristen Stewart and Charlize Theron. Now playing.

Elena

Directed by Andrey Zvyagintsev. With Nadezhda Markina and Andrey Smirnov. Opens Friday.

The publicity for Andrey Zvyagintsev's moody melodrama *Elena* uses the word "twist" to describe it, so we anticipate a shocking plot turn. It never arrives. The story of the title character (played by Nadezhda Markina), her rich but stingy older husband Vladimir (Andrey Smirnov), Elena's sponger son and his family, and Vladimir's bitter daughter travels in a straight line, but that doesn't lessen its tension nor dull its sad portrait of an unhappy marriage in contemporary Moscow.

Middle-aged Elena, an ex-nurse, lives with her former patient Vladimir in a stylish apartment, where they sleep in separate bedrooms. After she tends to his needs she has little to do other than visiting her adult son from a previous relationship, Sergey (Aleksey Rozin), in his flat in a cheap housing block across the road from a pair of nuclear cooling towers. Sergey, his wife, and his teenage son seem to have no earthly occupation besides playing video games, drinking beer, and asking Elena for money, then moaning when they don't get as much as they asked for.

Vladimir, a steely-eyed old man who regularly works out at the gym, has no pity on Elena's no-good son and his family, even when she begs him to help finance her grandson's schooling. He's also cool to the idea of bailing out his daughter Katya (Yelena Lyadova), a remote, hostile presence. Katya introduces a new and nasty element to the story. We get the impression she's not willing to sit around like Elena's family waiting for money to drop down from the sky. She and her father understand each other.

As Elena makes her morning rounds, the Philip Glass musical score starts up and all of a sudden things gets anxious. Director Zvyagintsev (*The Return*), working from a screenplay by Oleg Negin, imbues the scenario with a patient, bland-tempered tone — to match Elena's docile poker face — and we learn at least one important lesson. Never announce the provisions of your will. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

Bel Ami Gothic face-man Robert Pattinson from the *Twilight* series [illegible] Guy de Maupassant [illegible] (112 min.) [illegible]

Boots See this week's review. [illegible] min.)

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted [illegible] Sacha Baron Cohen.

Moonrise Kingdom From the [illegible] Wes Anderson [illegible] *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* [illegible] (93 min.) (K.V.)

Peace, Love & Misunderstanding Comedy about an uptight New York lawyer who [illegible] Jane Fonda, Catherine Keener [illegible] (96 min.)

Prometheus In 2093, on a distant [illegible] the origins of life on Earth. [illegible] Ridley Scott's [illegible] Michael Fassbender [illegible] Damon Lindelof. (124 min.) (K.V.)

[illegible]

ONGOING

Battleship Sci-fi thriller [illegible] Peter Berg [illegible] Liam Neeson. (131 min.)

Bernie Actor Jack Black [illegible]

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parish [illegible] (Black). But [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] of the [illegible] old rich lady in town, Marjorie Nugent (Shirley MacLaine) and the [illegible] really start wagging when Marjorie mysteriously [illegible]. Black, MacLaine, and [illegible] McConaughey (as the gung-ho local DA) all revel in their parts, and the crowning stroke is Linklater's decision to let the townsfolk (played by a mixture of actors and [illegible]) play themselves as a Greek chorus of gossips. Director Linklater (The School of Rock, Before Sunrise, Me and Orson Welles) and [illegible] Skip Hollandsworth just wind 'em up and let 'em go, and they're wonderful. Stick around for the end credits to see [illegible] sing his song, "[illegible] What Have You Done?" A winner. (104 min.) (KV)

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel Ensemble comedy about a group of [illegible] who decide to [illegible] their retirement in India. Directed by John Madden; [illegible] by Ol Parker from the novel These Foolish Things by Deborah Moggach; [illegible] and [illegible] Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Dev Patel, and Tom Wilkinson. (124 min.)

The Cabin in the Woods Sort of a postmodern Scooby-Doo, this [illegible] by Buffy the Vampire Slayer collaborators Joss Whedon and Drew Goddard [illegible] a familiar story of five college kids being [illegible] by zombies at the [illegible] location and [illegible] two [illegible] white-collar [illegible] (Richard Jenkins and [illegible] Whitford) monitoring the slaughter from a NASA-type control [illegible]. [illegible] (95 min.) (JL)

A Cat in Paris French-language animated comedy about a [illegible] Parisian girl whose cat [illegible] her into a mystery. (70 min.)

Chernobyl Diaries Horror film about a group of [illegible] at the site of the infamous [illegible] disaster. [illegible] by Bradley Parker; written by Oren Peli, Carey Van Dyke, and Shane Van Dyke; starring Jesse McCartney, Jonathan Sadowski, Devin Kelley, and Olivia Taylor Dudley. (83 min.)

Chimpanzee Disney-produced [illegible] about [illegible] a chimpanzee. [illegible] by Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, and narrated by Tim Allen.

Crooked Arrows [illegible] about a Native-American lacrosse team squaring off with its prep-school rivals. [illegible] by Steve Rash; starring Brandon Routh and Gil Birmingham. (105 min.)

Dark Shadows America's first and foremost soap-opera vampire, Barnabas Collins (Johnny Depp), [illegible] wakes up in 1972 and [illegible] something even stranger than the curse of the undead: women's lib. [illegible] Tim Burton's ghoulish black comedy [illegible] [illegible] the cast have as ungodly [illegible] playing old-fashioned square Barnabas [illegible] Eva Green as witch Angelique [illegible] of Barnabas' unrequited love [illegible] the family [illegible] (Michelle Pfeiffer), [illegible] (Helena Bonham Carter), [illegible] (Bella Heathcote), and Chloë Grace Moretz as the family's unrepentant teenage [illegible]. Burton and his British crew [illegible] production designer Rick Heinrichs [illegible] themselves in the gothy [illegible] and Seth Grahame-Smith's screenplay [illegible] with John August, [illegible] from the TV [illegible] by Dan Curtis, is ripe with witty visual [illegible]. Burton's best since Ed Wood. (113 min.) (KV)

The Dictator By now Sacha Baron Cohen's "funny foreigner" shtick (Borat, Bruno) [illegible] familiar to audiences, [illegible] So he [illegible] portrait of an Arab despot named Admiral General Aladeen [illegible] before anyone even sees it [illegible] Cohen proves [illegible] in the first quarter [illegible] Middle East [illegible] dictator gets lost on [illegible] in New York City, falls in love with a health food-store manager (Anna Faris, brilliantly), and [illegible]. Read any other young-adult-male comedy [illegible] That's why Cohen is king of the [illegible] and why the [illegible]. (83 min.) (KV)

Elles [illegible] a preoccupied [illegible] magazine writer [illegible] (Juliette Binoche) [illegible] with her feature-story subjects, a pair of Parisian prostitutes: Charlotte (Anaïs Demoustier), a [illegible] girl-next-door type; and Polish immigrant Alicja (Joanna Kulig), a [illegible] vodka-drinker with a cruel streak. [illegible] Malgorzata Szumowska, a Polish [illegible] with Tine Byrckel [illegible]. (96 min.) (KV)

First Position Documentary following six young ballet dancers as they ready for the Youth America Grand Prix, a prestigious ballet competition. Directed by Bess Kargman. (90 min.)

The Five-Year Engagement Judd Apatow-produced romantic comedy about a couple [illegible] a five-year engagement. Directed by Nicholas Stoller; written by Stoller and Jason Segel; starring Segel, Emily Blunt, and Alison Brie. (124 min.)

Gerhard Richter Painting Documentary about the life and work of the famed German [illegible]. Written and directed by Corinna Belz. (97 min.)

Girl in Progress Comedy-drama about a single mom juggling her daughter, her job, and her [illegible]. Directed by Patricia Riggen; starring Eva Mendes, and [illegible] as the [illegible]. (93 min.)

God Bless America Bobcat Goldthwait, the standup-[illegible] filmmaker who gave us World's Greatest Dad, [illegible] a middle-age [illegible] (well played by Joel Murray) who goes on a [illegible] shooting rampage with his unlikely partner, a teenage girl (Tara Lynne Barr) [illegible] Alice Cooper [illegible] Goldthwait's [illegible] commentary on [illegible] and dumbed-down entertainment in the USA, [illegible] Frank Murdoch, [illegible] Falling Down? We may never know for sure. Writer-director Goldthwait's [illegible] portrait of everyday life [illegible] (104 min.) (KV)

Headhunters Roger (Aksel Hennie) is a [illegible] Oslo corporate executive who compensates for his lack of [illegible] art-theft ring. [illegible] Diana (Synnøve Macody Lund) [illegible] an affair with rugged [illegible] Clas (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) [illegible] Jo Nesbø. (100 min.) (KV)

The Hunger Games [illegible] from the [illegible] young-adult novel, this sci-fi [illegible] concerns two [illegible] teenage gladiators fighting each other to the death as part of a [illegible] spectacle [illegible]. Director Gary Ross (Pleasantville) [illegible] special effects and [illegible] cinematographer Tom Stern [illegible] (142 min.) (KV)

Hysteria In [illegible] London circa 1880, a [illegible] doctor named Granville (Hugh Dancy) causes a sensation when he [illegible] the world's first [illegible] [illegible] Charlotte (Maggie Gyllenhaal) [illegible] Stephen Dyer [illegible] [illegible]

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I Wish [illegible] (128 min.) (K.V.)

The Intouchables [illegible] (112 min.) (K.V.)

Jiro Dreams of Sushi [illegible] (81 min.) (K.V.)

Mansome [illegible] (K.V.)

Marvel's The Avengers Exactly the sum of its parts. [illegible] (142 min.) (K.V.)

Men in Black 3 [illegible] (106 min.) (K.V.)

Mirror Mirror [illegible]

The Pirates! Band of Misfits [illegible] (91 min.) (K.V.)

Polisse The Child Protection Unit of the Paris, French police [illegible] (127 min.) (K.V.)

The Raven Fails to fully [illegible] Sherlock Holmes.

[illegible] (105 min.) (K.V.)

Snow White & the Huntsman Action-fantasy [illegible] (127 min.)

Sound of My Voice [illegible] (85 min.) (K.V.)

Think Like a Man [illegible] (122 min.)

What to Expect When You're Expecting [illegible] (110 min.)

Where Do We Go Now? [illegible] (K.V.)

Whores' Glory Colorful, wide-ranging documentary [illegible]

[illegible] (110 min.) (K.V.)

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Frankenstein (120 min., 2012) [illegible]

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

[illegible] (87 min., 2000) [illegible] 7:00)

[illegible] (100 min.) [illegible] 7:30)

[illegible] (95 min., 1986) [illegible] 8:00)

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Nightwatching (134 min., 2007), Peter Greenaway: Painting and Cinema (PFA, 6:00)

[illegible] (78 min., 1960), In Dutch and English [illegible] (PFA, 8:30)

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

[illegible] (PFA, 7:30)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

The Keys to the Kingdom (137 min., 1944), Gregory Peck: An Agreeable Gentleman (PFA, 7:00)

This American Life Live! Things You Can't Do on Radio (120 min., 2012), [illegible] 7:00)

[illegible] (90 min., 2005) [illegible] 6:30 p.m. [illegible] 7:30)

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MON-THUR. 4:30, 7:30, 10:10

SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN 1:00, 4:[illegible], 7:15, 10:00
MON-THUR. 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

MADAGASCAR 3D (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN (2 projector 3D) 2:30, 7:00, 9:15
FRI-SAT-SUN (Digital 2D) 12:15, 4:45
MON-THUR. (2 projector 3D) 7:00, 9:15
MON-THUR. (Digital 2D) 4:45

THE AVENGERS (R)
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FRI-SAT-SUN 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45
MON-THUR. 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

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A NEW KIND OF HIP-HOPERA

How one long-haired guy speaks to the future of hip-hop and classical music

By Luke Tsai

We might as well get this out of the way: JooWan Kim is one of the stars of the Bay Area hip-hop scene, he doesn't exactly look the part. Bespectacled and slight of frame, the 34 year old Korean American wears his hair long and favors sandals and white robes — a look befitting a martial arts guru (if you're into stereotyping like that) or maybe Jesus Christ.

Kim doesn't rap — he has no aspirations to be the next Denizen Kane or Jin Au Yeung. He doesn't work the turntables; he doesn't cull out obscure tracks to sample. Rather he's a classically trained composer with degrees from Berklee College of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory. He also cusses a lot, dismisses the classical genre as mostly "old white people music," and has an abiding love for N.W.A. Go ahead, try putting him in a box.

Back in Korea, Kim says, you could be into a type of music without having to buy into the whole subculture — without having to dress a certain way or only hang out with certain kinds of people.

Here, it's different: "Because I have long hair and I'm Asian, they're like 'Who is this guy, and why is he into hip-hop?'"

Anyway, Kim isn't so much trying to break into the hip-hop world as he is determined to reshape it, in what might appear to be the unlikeliest of ways — by combining rapping and hip-hop rhythms with elements of his first love: classical music. And so he's assembled a crew that not only includes two highly-regarded Bay Area rappers — Do D.A.T. and Rico Pabón — but also a flute player and a violinist and a guy on stand-up bass.

On Friday, June 8, Kim's Ensemble Mik Nawooj (read it backwards) will perform his magnum opus *The Great Integration* at the Oasis Restaurant & Bar. The ninety-minute, two-act "chamber hip-hop opera" will feature a nine-member ensemble: strings, woodwinds, drums, the two emcees, and Kim himself holding court on the piano.

If you're an old school hip-hop head or a classical purist, maybe you cringe a little at a term like "chamber hip-hop opera." Maybe it makes you think of Puff Daddy rhyming over some sappy strings. Maybe it conjures images of Yo-Yo Ma trying too hard to be hip (scratch that — I've never seen Yo-Yo Ma do anything that wasn't awesome).

According to Kim, the truth is that most of the time when musicians try to blend classical music with hip-hop, or any other kind of pop music, the results are disappointing. There's

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JooWan Kim is determined to reshape the hip-hop world.

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the so-called Third Stream, a term Gunther Schuller coined to describe the fusion of classical music and jazz, most of which Kim says just sounds like concert music — not jazz really. And when pop musicians try to incorporate classical music, they usually just mimic the sound by hiring a string section.

What Ensemble Mik Nawooj strives to achieve is more than just a mash-up of two genres, but rather a coherent hybrid: ambitious, multi-layered compositions that rely heavily on hip-hop rhythms, but within which the rapping is just one element — one instrument, if you will.

"I'm not trying to mix classical and hip-hop. I'm actually creating new music," Kim explained. "It's not classical and it's not hip-hop. Once you have a hybrid, it's no longer the predecessors — it's the next stage of evolution."

The story of Ensemble Mik Nawooj is, in its genesis, an immigrant's tale. As a 20-year-old Kim immigrated to the US to study classical composition at two of the great meccas for Western music: first Boston's Berklee College of Music and then the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He wrote piano concertos and string quartets — pretty standard stuff.

Kim said that back in Korea, classical music was a fresh, relatively new thing to study. Then he got to the States and found it no longer seemed relevant, that it had become "old white people music."

"For me it was not the music of today," he explained.

While he was at Berklee, Kim met Valentino Pellizzer (now the Ensemble's drummer), who introduced him to hip-hop. Kim says he hated it at first, but eventually something clicked and he started to like it. He rattled off a list of favorites, all old-school legends: N.W.A., Public Enemy, Wu-Tang Clan, Dr. Dre — Kim says his rhythms are mostly influenced by that G-funk style.

In 2005, while he was at the Conservatory, Kim put together a performance of an experimental piece that ended with an emcee, Oakland's Kirby Dominant, doing a little freestyle rap — the rest of it was chamber music infused with hip-hop rhythms. According to Kim, the public response was so positive that Kirby Dominant suggested they cut an album together.

So Kim and his old Berklee roommate, Christopher Nicholas, who also serves as the group's lead vocalist, founded Ensemble Mik Nawooj. The first album they recorded — *The Great Integration* — took about six months for Kim to compose. Since he'd conceived of it as an "opera," the first step was coming up with a narrative. The piece introduces the listener to five corrupt tycoons ("material lords") who run amuck and cause the world to be "in the shit," as Kim put it. The story deals with the destruction of these lords at the hands of someone called the Black Swordsman — Kirby Dominant's character — so that the old system can be wiped out and spiritual renewal can take place.

"The opera is about the end of the world, actually," Kim said with a chuckle.

Kim composed all the music, and he gave the emcee a detailed synopsis of the story on which to base his lyrics. Later, Kim composed a second act and brought on Rico Pabón to assume the persona of the Water Bearer. And when Do D.A.T. — best known for an album centered on Duke Ellington's repertory — replaced Kirby Dominant for the first act last November, he brought his own stamp to the piece.

Both emcees said *The Great Integration* is the most unique project they've ever been a part of. For Pabón, in particular, that's saying quite a lot. Among other things, he's been a member of a 10-piece salsa/hip-hop/reggae band and gigged with Linda Tillery's Cultural Heritage Choir.

Pabón explained that Kim isn't doing what hip-hop producers normally do with a piece of music — taking bits and pieces and chopping them up.

"It's not just groove-oriented where there's one thing looping over and over. It starts somewhere and you really journey with it," he said.

Because each act is made up four or five songs that are each about ten minutes long, the instrumentation has a chance to go through movements and changes that aren't possible within the framework of a three-and-a-half minute pop song.

Watching a handful of YouTube clips of prior performances, I got a feel for what Pabón was saying: Within a single song, there'd be parts that were like a jazz number, each instrumentalist taking a turn to solo. There was a bare bones strings sequence that built and swelled to a climax. There were long piano passages as haunting as minor-key Rachmaninoff — and then the drums would cut in, and the double bass and a couple measures later than you expect, Pabón's voice lilting and ebullient.

"It's not some pretty chamber music with a little backbeat or something," Pabón stressed. There are parts that are flat out "nasty" — parts he plans on sampling in the future.

"You can add a drum beat to anything," Pabón said. "But it's different if you're going to find where the drums are supposed to be and make it its own thing."

Show Details
At Oasis Restaurant & Bar (135 12th St., Oakland) on Friday, June 8, 8 p.m. $5-$10. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/245449

Neither Pabón or Do D.A.T. (a.k.a. Devin Anthony Thompson) had considered themselves fans of classical music, but both rappers said their collaboration with Kim has changed the way they write and listen to music — Thompson likened it to how when you beat a boss in those old Megaman video games, you acquire that boss's power.

"We're Captain Kirk out here," Thompson said. "We're boldly going where no emcee has gone before."

I asked Thompson if he thought Kim's genre-bending efforts spoke to the future of hip-hop as a whole.

"Absolutely," he said, pointing out that cross-genre collaborations have always been a part of hip-hop, dating all the way back to Run D.M.C. and Aerosmith. "To me, hip-hop is alchemy. Hip-hop is an ever-expanding universe."

Thompson describes himself as a "hip-hopper to the fullest," and said he sees that quality in Kim too.

"He has that hip-hopper's rebel mentality," Thompson said. "I know the rules, but fuck the rules. I'm going to make something out of nothing. That's why I really relate to JooWan Kim." ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

BALLAD OF DEAR INDUGU

For singer Jesse Strickman shyness is an asset.

By Rachel Swan

The soft, warbly intonation of Jesse Strickman's speaking voice doesn't match what you'd expect from a rock frontman, nor does it shift that much when he sings. Then again, Strickman is by no means typical. In real life, he works in an organic ice cream shop, adheres to a strict vegetarian diet, and is fluent in American Sign Language. He was pathologically shy as a kid and suffered crippling stage fright — Strickman said that when he played punk shows as a student at Saint Mary's College High School in Albany, he'd sometimes "black the whole thing out" because it was so traumatic. He's the kind of person who could look very important behind a cash register, yet seem demure onstage.

Even today, as the lead singer and songwriter for Oakland band Dear Indugu, 26-year-old Strickman seems improbably self-effacing, never so much a rock star as a balladeer. Perhaps that's to his credit. At the very least it ensures that there's little disconnect between his stage persona and his everyday self. That was readily apparent during the band's EP release show at La Peña Cultural Center last Friday. Strickman emerged in an orange crocheted scarf and thanked everyone for coming, in the same obsequious tone you'd use to thank the popular girl who deigned to attend your birthday party.

Show Details
At Rasputin Music (2401 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley) on Sunday, June 24, 2 p.m. free.

The mood quickly picked up, especially with the addition of canned sound effects (a rainstorm and a low peal of thunder culled from Dear Indugu's new EP). Strickman's goal, it seemed, was to create an airtight stage show that adhered to the record wherever possible, but also had a dramatic arc. He started small, launching the first song, "Black Dress," as a solo guitar number. It was a grim choice for an opener, as the lyrics are about suicide — though only a careful listener would know that, since the sweet chord changes belie the subject matter. A gorgeous blush flowered over Strickman's cheeks as he sang.

Midway through the song, the rest of the band arrived: electric guitarist Joshua Owings, who started playing music with Strickman in sixth grade; drummer Chris Nishimoto, who held down the rhythm section for one of Strickman's high school garage bands, AP (to the singer's present-day embarrassment, the acronym stood for "Advanced Placement"); and bassist Van Jackson-Weaver, an Albuquerque transplant who studied alongside Owings at San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Both Jackson-Weaver and Owings wore fedoras — Owings nearly blotted out his entire face, the rest of which was hidden beneath a woolly beard. Both spent most of the show staring at their instruments, though every once in a while they'd lift their heads and croon.

With the addition of new conservatory-trained personnel, Dear Indugu has grown from a lean one-man operation to a bulky four-piece, which is occasionally a six-piece — the last two songs also featured a trombonist and trumpeter. This makes the music sound much richer, Strickman said, noting all the added ornamentation. Owings and Jackson-Weaver help write the horn parts and the background harmonies, weaving Strickman's ideas into a more formalized structure. Songs that sounded raw on the singer's original demos receive more sure-handed contours. There's always a rise and a bridge, and occasionally a vamp that bleeds into the next number.

Strickman performing at La Peña

That emphasis on craftsmanship suits Strickman's personality, even though he doesn't boast the same classical background as his bandmates. What distinguishes him from other self-taught composers is a near-obsessive tendency to edit and refine. He says a lot of songs in Friday's set generated from ideas he'd had in high school. "Frame of Gold," for instance, is a tune he wrote at age eighteen while looking at objects in his bedroom and waxing nostalgic — memory, he realized, is actually a vessel into which sentiment can be poured. "Circles," another song poached from high school, is about endlessly spiraling depression. For all its pathos, most of his music is swaddled in warm melodies and jaunty rhythms, which serve as a kind of hygienic varnish.

Songwriting is a process of constant tinkering for Strickman, and it's not unusual for him to start a tune, cache it away for a few years, then rewrite it with sharper language and fatter orchestration. His music isn't that sophisticated, but it's carefully limned, almost to the point of obfuscating the emotional content. That showed in Dear Indugu's recent concert as well, which was a surprisingly decorous affair. Interwoven in the band's 45-minute set were two acoustic duets (one with two guitars, the other with Strickman on harmonica and Nishimoto on tambourine), two sextet ensemble pieces, and several painterly guitar interludes.

Strickman says it has to be that way. He's a closet perfectionist and a songwriter who insists that every tune be its own self-contained narrative — and moreover, that the lyrics convey the emotion from which they spawned. That might go back to his being shy in high school and relying on music to communicate. "Someone was telling me the other day that 'No one talks like you,'" he said, admitting that many people find his soft voice disarming. He takes that as a compliment. ●

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DIVIDE AND CONQUER

An uplifting solo effort, an unorthodox combo, and an indie band that popped

The Tallest Man on Earth

There's No Leaving Now

Whether you're a lyrics person or not, you'd likely agree that trite, underdeveloped sentiments can ruin a song. Likewise, lyrics with layered meaning, a painstakingly and deliberately drawn rhyme scheme, and strong, specific imagery can take an otherwise pleasant tune to a place so uplifting that it's easy to forget it was crafted by just one person.

At this point, it's hard to think of anyone writing better English lyrics than Kristian Matsson. *There's No Leaving Now* is the diminutive Swedish songwriter's third album under his sometime moniker The Tallest Man on Earth, and his distinctive sound is at a new level of mastery. *The Wild Hunt* (which came out in 2010) may have been a breakthrough for Matsson, but this work feels like a triumph. Matsson continues to draw on Sweden folk without sounding antiquated, and cuts an even more endearing figure than ever before.

Not to mention Matsson doesn't sound like the gruff hermit of *The Wild Hunt* anymore. *There's No Leaving Now* sounds as if it was recorded all at once, or at least in one spot, and the music is rounder and warmer. Matsson's usual bray is flecked with plaintive and compassionate depth like never before. Mellowed and smoked at the edges, his skillful twangs shine in a new way. Cinematic without being boastful or epic, the arrangements roll smoothly like burnt hillsides and wide prairie skies. There are no stinkers, no boring lulls, and at the end of the album we even hear a bit of Matsson's classical background come through in an understated and fitting conclusion. (Dead Oceans)

— *Will Butler*

Béla Fleck & The Marcus Roberts Trio

Across the Imaginary Divide

Here's something to raise the ire of puristic: Jazz piano ace Marcus Roberts (formerly with Wynton Marsalis' 1980s quintet) and banjo master Béla Fleck, who's got an extensive résumé in both bluegrass and electric and acoustic fusion styles, in an equal partnership. Each gent brought original compositions to the table, neither side "bending" toward the other in a facile manner. In other words, no traditional bluegrass tunes given jazz renditions, no bebop standards given Americana flourishes.

"Some Roads Lead Home" begins with a somewhat pastoral melodic motif (as much Bill Monroe as Aaron Copeland) before switching to a loping bit of rural funk, Roberts' sweet bluesy chords lay a basis for his and Fleck's flights of fancy, maintaining the joyful bucolic ambiance. Here, Jason Marsalis' drums roll and pour down like one of those rare summer showers during which the sun still shines. "Let Me Show You What to Do" alternates between sly, leisurely-paced, blues-laden passages and brisk, hard-swinging bebop. "Petunia," co-written by Fleck and Roberts, bridges aspects of their respective styles. Fleck's solos have more than a hint of down-home twang, but he keeps pace with the fervent swing. Roberts swings like mad with hints of country-pop phrasing in his solos, melding Floyd Cramer corn with Red Garland drive. Fleck's sparkling "One Blue Truth" has hints of bossa nova with him in a reflective mode (his banjo almost sounding like a mandolin) while Roberts' piano waltzes elegantly.

Béla FLECK
and the
Marcus ROBERTS Trio

This exhilarating *Divide* focuses on the commonality and breadth of American song, refined but never too far from the blues. (Rounder)

— *Mark Keresman*

POP ETC

POP ETC

Back in March, when members of the beloved, Berkeley-born indie-pop outfit The Morning Benders announced that they were changing the band's name to the exuberantly-capitalized POP ETC, they framed it as a matter of simple necessity: "bender" is, apparently, a homophobic slur throughout the UK and much of Europe, and suffice it to say a young band on the precipice of international renown might want to cool it on the (inadvertent) gay bashing.

But after listening to the band's first self-titled record under the new name, it appears that the change was more than just cosmetic. While *Talking Through Tin Cans* and *Big Echo* trafficked in soft angles, sunny guitar melodies, oblique songwriting, and a decidedly organic feel, *POP ETC* is remarkably different in just about every way: all minimalist electronic synth lines, R&B-inflected compositions, and ironically cheesy lyrics of the rhyme-bad-with-head variety.

ROCK HIP HOP
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HOUSE PSYCH
R&B POP ETC

These are smart, self-aware guys, to be sure, and the shift in their sound is too stark not to be purposeful. But it's still puzzling. Three years ago, The Morning Benders was one of the most promising young pop bands to come out of the Bay Area in quite some time, just beginning to grow into its potential. Now the band is a passable Hot Chip imitator. It's still actually pretty good, to be clear — even if the indie-kids-doing-Boyz-II-Men-retreads thing is a little meaningless at this point. Chris Chu and company are still imaginative musicians and fairly brilliant composers — but it's kind of like if A-Rod decided to start playing basketball or something: only bad if you know how good good can be. (Rough Trade)

— *Ellen Cushing*

LOCAL LICKS

Future Twin

Situation EP

The pungency of Jean Jeanie's voice is what really characterizes Future Twin. Warbling synth chords interlock with brittle surf guitar to create melodies that hover on four notes, while Jeanie free-associates words or erratic about relationships. Future Twin's songs are giddy and sweet on the surface, with drumbeats that jangle and hedges that swaddle the listener.

At Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St., San Francisco) on Sunday, June 24, 9 p.m. $6

BPos

Pos Tapes

Spawned from a trilogy of mixtapes that each featured beats from one local auteur, this album is earnestly, ardently nostalgic for a previous era of hip-hop — one that favored melodic production, jazz horn samples, references to "kinetic energy," genuflection to the four elements, and a bouncy rap cadence. If you miss that era, you'll love this. (One League)

J. Boogie's Dubtronic Science

"El Ritmo"/"No Freedom"

The latest offering from Om Records DJ/producer J. Boogie is a testament both to his knowledge of world music and to the worldish character of Bay Area hip-hop. "El Ritmo" features the Latin band Bang Data with percussionist Juan Cape and bilingual rapper Deuce Eclipse, while "No Freedom" is a horn-plumped Afrobeat track buoyed by the resonant voice of MC Zulu. (Om Records)

Loquat

We Could Be Arsonists

As its album title suggests, Loquat is a band obsessed with human tragedy. Fittingly, most of its songs are about wrestling demons: In "Rumbling," a man awaits a murder sentence; in "Up Late," a relationship dissolves over alcohol. But the band's music sounds warm and improbably lighthearted, cushioned by synths and the occasional programmed drumbeat. Singer Kylee Swenson Gordon is irresistible, particularly when she scrapes her little-girl voice to hit the high notes. (Nacional Records)

At Monarch (101 Sixth St., San Francisco) on Thursday, June 14, 8 p.m. free ●

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 7

EAST BAY

All Ages

Gryphone 1950 "Women of Song", Berkeley Piano Club, noon, $15, $10

Blues, Folk & Country

The ARC Jam Starry Plough, 8 p.m., free
Roose Tiberry and Zydeco Magic Vibes, 8 p.m., [illegible]
Kev Rowe and the Kee Ucks Peter's Oakland, 8 p.m., $20
Roseanne with Carrie Senfeld, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50, $23.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Red Hanet Swing jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free
Skip Roolanestend Trosonod Quilted Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Kane Hooley piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 6 p.m., free
Eli Kenneth plays Happy Hour Bene Bene Disco Volante, 5 p.m., free
The Princeto with The Charming Band and Texas Steve & the [illegible], The Uptown, 9 p.m., $12, $15
The Hoonse with The Thirsty Room, Lucky 13, 9 p.m., free
The Spanmalius Ivan's Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m., free
Kee Hardt & Marc Pano Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

10 McPhersons Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $21

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ann Armeola Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 7:30-11 p.m., free
Eddie Pa Brenner Five with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m., free
George Thousand Sam Howard, 8:30 p.m.
The Worried Gravele Le Colonial, 7-10 p.m., free
Stompy Jones San Francisco-based sextet performs live jazz and blues, Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Armenia Bane with [illegible] and Gavel And Joanne, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10, $12

The Drama Thousand with Bitty And Bene and the Quiet Mad Atlases of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10
Midi Houses with Young, Digested (SF release) plus Popsicle Sip, Kimshine [illegible] 8:30 p.m., $10
Party Owl with I.E.S. and Gomes, Hendrick Levett, 9 p.m., $8
Songwriters in the House with Heather Combs, [illegible] Cass Tate, and Lyn Rhoades, Note Utah, 8 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Mickey Avalon with Millionaires and Brn, Slim's, 8 p.m., $26

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Kee 4 Las Mias Mayets, 8:30 p.m., free
Flamenco Thursdays traditional music & dancing with Koressa DeMars & Stephanie Nevarez, Rene Paulomaram, 8 p.m., $12
Sky Aliasons with Goodheads, Mao [illegible] 9 p.m., $15

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

FRIDAY 8

EAST BAY

All Ages

Quilted Kane The Café Trieste, 8 p.m., free

Blues, Folk & Country

Bobby Roam Quartet with Big Lou's Dixie Rary and Joe Goldmark and the Se-Rucers, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lisa Stellow with Tenacity Hall Trio, Piedmont Piano Company, 8 p.m., $18
Kee Quilted Jumen jazz with guest Atlases singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Homer Folklait Havenbrooke, 9 p.m., $8
Kane Hooley piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 6 p.m., free
Shown By Shownship with Gospeaks Ku's, Mild High Club, 7 p.m., $6
Monkhouse with Fresh and Ladder and [illegible], Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5
Max & Goodbye with Pine Of Light, Young Lions, Cynic at (RP), Cibovo $25, [illegible] 8 p.m., $8
Thousand Winery Concert Quilted Crestfallen [illegible] "Three Dog Night", Mountain Winery, 7:31 p.m., $45.50-$90.50
The Shanks with Sean McArdle and Page and the Freeland, Starry Plough, 8:30 p.m., $7, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Quartet Anne Mandara with Dudley Pleased and DJ Barnes, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $10, $20
Room Integration A Chamber Hip Hop Opera featuring Ricci Rabon and the [illegible] Oasis, 9 p.m., $8, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Kammers with Red Hot Chachkas plus Klezmer dance instruction at 7:30 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $12, $18

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Jesse Coom & Henson Thousand Zingari Restaurante, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ann Armeola Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m., free
Black Brewer Jazz Thousand Top of the Mark, 9 p.m., $10
Eddie Thousand Duo with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m., free
George Thousand Sam Howard, 8:30 p.m.
The Jimmy Ryan Quartet Rice & Beckett Bistro and Records, 5:30-8 p.m., free
Will Magic The [illegible] Room Room, 8:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Kee Thousand with Laura Manhunter, The Independent, 9 p.m., $20
Someonion with Bok Kilroy [illegible], and Bankrupt Dimension Subj!, Mission Gallery, 8 p.m., $8
Jane in Fane with The Downtown Shrines, Slim's, 9 p.m., $20
The Hollyhocks CD release party, Make-out Room, 7:30 p.m., $8
Gane Kaus with Ernie's (album release) Mesoheli and Divewhite, Plowshare [illegible] 9 p.m., $10
Saint Hymns with Chasing Kings and Atlases, Note Utah, 9 p.m., $8
No Boom with Terrible, Mansions Jeff's Pillows, The Knockout, 9 p.m., $8
Marsheila with Rajali's Wart, Café le Sweet, and Yes Lady And the Deadly Medley, Shop PI [illegible] 9 p.m., $8
Yonder with The Yes Go's and [illegible] Joy, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $6
This Will Sending You with A Dozen To Bury Strangers, Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m., $12, $14
Cornate Rider with Battlehooch, Hill Men, Sporting Life, and 31 Whale Hill, Fuel, Great American Music Hall, 7:30 p.m., $13
Whiskeyand with Gay Fin "Lamboreed [illegible] Boomboxes, and Steve Taylor, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $10
Yello with Amber Emerson, Yr Skull and more, Underground SF, 9 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The New Orleans Suspects with Zigaboo Modeliste And The New Aahkanons, Bass & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $10, $20

SATURDAY 9

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

British Mouse #2 featuring The Mandara Lucy, Here Girl Named I, The Blondins, and Extra Abandon, and the Thousand Rangers, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50
Barbeque 'n' Boom featuring music by Blue Prine Express and dancing by Hot Pink Feathers, Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m., $10
Havana Family Singers happy hour, Starry Plough, 5 p.m., free
Tippy Quilted Bound Cafe, 7 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Havana from the Doom of Kangri featuring Charles P. Anthiville & [illegible] "Mass of the Beloing Jesuits", St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2 p.m., $35, $30

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Kabbalistics Bro Trinity Chapel, 8 p.m., $10, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 8:30 p.m., free
Room Lyndah Trio Piedmont Piano Company, 8 p.m., $15
Hub Honer Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $25-$35
Kee Quilted classic jazz with guest Havana singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Kids

Los Thousand de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., kids $5

Rock & Pop

The Black Stones with The Campbell Apartment and The Melody Dolls, Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m., $7-$10
Kane Hooley piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 6 p.m., free
The Flesh Hammers with Bile, Heroes At Gunpoint, and Locobrass, Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m.
Homer with Paraded, Sam Hesscaus, Dorochan Rising, Seaports and Funk Lord, 924 Gilman, 8 p.m., $12
Homebonner Boom'd featuring Ms Saith, Blasting Rory, Fat Fur, Rapitos and Hesitation Wounds, 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 3:30 p.m., $5-$10
Swingin' Utters with Sharp Objects and Union Rents, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m.
Toy Quilted Hat with Bladerunnels, Gonzalo Sky and Redvelt, Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Hall 9 Dorsey's Locker, 9 p.m., free
Havana en Honor/Hip-Hop Suspects La Peña Cultural Center, 9 p.m., $11, $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Aynan Yoi Ashkenaz, 9 p.m., $12, $15
The Allnest y su Honey Ameola with DJ Wailingo, Vitus, 9 p.m., $11
Kee Haw Kardolton City, 10 p.m., $25

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Hootenanny Night Cafe International, 7 p.m., free

Blues, Folk & Country

36th Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival two full days of music and dance workshops, concerts, dance parties, crafts, vendors, including Klezmer and infant music making, Presidio Middle School, 1-10 p.m., free
The Dirty Kane Family Band with The Fu-[illegible], The Sharps, The Rogues, and Hot Pink Feathers, Great American Music Hall, 8:30 p.m., $13, $15
Carousel Cast Doggstoli Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free
Julia Haner Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m., $15
Thousand di Motion Italian folk music with Sheri Mignano, Caffe Trieste, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ana Mandara Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m., free
Room Pasternak Trio with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m., free
Eddie Havana Room Booth Room, 9:30 p.m.
George Thousand Sam Howard, 8:30 p.m.
Thousand Faces Kind multimedia Havana review, OmniCircus, 8 p.m., $20

Rock & Pop

Paradise of Cowboyship with Fatske, Black Cobra, Bird Slate, 5 p.m., 8 p.m., $21
Amnesia Phantasmatite with Goodnight Texas, The Independent, 8 p.m., $21
Highwave Thee Parkside, 3 p.m., free
Lamonn a la Silent Land Time Machine, Smokey Emery, Ameola Mabel, and Black [illegible], Sub/Mission Gallery, 8 p.m., $8
Maps & Atlases with The Big Sleep and Hands, Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m., $12
Phrased Arwen with Don't Tell Alaska, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $10
Mandara & The Boom with Kane Onon, Cool Ghouls, and Whataretime Sugar, El Rio, 9 p.m., $8
Spiderwoman with The Gaunts and Mt. Whatsername, Mandara Tavern, 9 p.m., $6
Stone Room with Jiggaway Halo and Pillo, Elbo 21, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $10
The Untouchables with Undercover S.K.A., Kee Bert Lounge, 9 p.m., $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Funk Brewer Thousand a live tribute to Ray Barm, Cafe Du Nord, 9:30 p.m., $10
The New Havana Suspects with Zigaboo Modeliste and The New Aahkanons, Bass & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $10, $20
Soul Bone SF 9 with DJ Spinna, Bane King Mont, and Haladay, M.Ameola, 9 p.m., $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Gonzalo Hubalcaba [illegible] 8 p.m., $25-$65

SUNDAY 10

EAST BAY

All Ages

BandWorks Ashkenaz, 2 p.m., $5

Blues, Folk & Country

Restaurant Unplugged Nortes, 5 p.m., free
Banes Lemonla & Frank Vignola Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $30.50
Freddy's All-Star Super Sessions Jimmy Brown & Redwood blues band every week, Peter's Restaurant, 9 p.m., free
Sunday Morning Room with Rev Arbia, Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

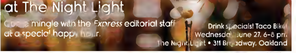
Ol Pleased jazz-improv/piano improvisations, Apple Gypsy Café, 12:30 p.m., free
Jazz and R&B Night Dorsey's Locker, 6:30 p.m., free
The Thousand Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 p.m., free
John Quilted Anchor Cafe, 6 p.m., free
Lloyd Stellow Cafe Van Kleef, 6 p.m.
The Randy Havana The Nick's Lounge, 5:30-10 p.m., free
Hub Honer Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 9 p.m., $25, $18
Terrence Brewer Trio Mezze Restaurant & Bar, 8:30-9 p.m., free

Kids

Saggy Sundays kids' series, Ashkenaz, 3 p.m., $4, $6

Rock & Pop

Dog Vhile with Sprayed, Delay, Shambles, Sweet Leaves, and Upraised Fists, 924 Gilman, 8 p.m.
The Ratio Dobbellius Havenbrooke, 7:30 p.m., free
Thee Ratio Dobbellius Disco Volante, 8 p.m., free
White Lung with Wax Idols, Double Knapp, and The Mallard, The New Parish, 7:30 p.m., $8, $10



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WED 6/13 9:00 pm $11 — GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT — STU ALLEN & MARS HOTEL
THU 6/14 8:30 pm $15 $12 advance — WORLD/GYPSY/AFRO-BALKAN — CALIPA with members of Fishlane Ensemble
FRI 6/15 9:30 pm $13 $10 students — REGGAE/CARIBBEAN — CARIBBEAN ALLSTARS — Bay Area reggae pioneers
SAT 6/16 8:30 pm $13 $8 advance — CD RELEASE FESTIVAL — ANTIOQUIA, MOVING PARTS, MAJOR POWERS & THE LO-FI SYMPHONY, DRUNHM
SUN 6/17 8:30 pm $8 — OPEN MIC — SONGWRITERS' OPEN MIC — Original songs only!
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PICKS

Torche

One of the strangest live pairings I have ever witnessed was when Torche opened for Dredg at the Great American Music Hall a few years ago. The former, a "doom pop" band from Miami, seemed to confound the young audience of the radio-friendly Los Gatos alt rock band, so much so that singer/guitarist Steve Brooks decided to embrace the non-response by sarcastically goading the crowd. I can only assume Torche was invited on the tour because of the "pop" descriptor that got attached to it after its 2008 album, *Meanderthal*, which showed the band embracing more straightforward rock hooks and soaring harmonies over its sludgy, abyss-like bottom end. But that show made it clear: Torche was a heavy band, through and through. On the band's full-length follow-up to *Meanderthal* (and its first since the departure of guitarist Juan Montoya), *Harmonicraft*, Torche feels re-energized and renewed — although not necessarily treading new waters. Kicking is pure, unabashed, rocking-out fun, with hooks that actually could be radio-friendly ("Kiss Me Dudely"). It's also still capable of blasting off your eyebrows with such amp blowouts as the minute-and-change "Sky Trials." *Harmonicraft* may not be as immediately catchy as *Meanderthal*, but it's also more impactful than the *Songs for Singles* EP. It's safe to say there won't be any miscalculating the band's audience again. Torche plays with Corrosion of Conformity, Black Cobra, and Coux at Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Saturday, June 9, 8 p.m., $25. SlimsPresents.com — *Kathleen Richards*

Torche

Cary Copeland

Georgia Anne Muldrow.

Georgia Anne Muldrow

Armed with an unusually expressive voice and a knack for commandeering weird chord changes, soul singer Georgia Anne Muldrow might be the most propitious addition to the Stones Throw record label in recent years. That's not just because she's one of the only women, or because she spawned from a jazz dynasty — her father, the late guitarist Ronald Muldrow, played with saxophonist Eddie Harris, while her mother, Rickie Byars Beckwith, is a widely known composer of healing music. Muldrow evidently writes and produces her own music in addition to interpreting the vocal parts. Her style resembles that of the late, beloved beatmaker J Dilla — all dense harmonies, jangling drum fills, and chord changes that could easily be transcribed for a jazz trio. Like Dilla, Muldrow uses all the accoutrements of contemporary hip-hop, but jazz music the blueprint on which she built her songs. She'll perform at The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) with her beau, fellow Stones Throw artist Dudley Perkins, plus DJs Ramon and Blood, on Friday, June 8, 9 p.m., $14, $18. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

Patrick Watson

If you've starved for the kind of floating, sullen soundtrack that resembles a Yann Tiersen or Jon Brion piece, look no further than Patrick Watson. The Montreal-based recording artist specializes in lush, baffling fantasy folk, the kind you'd get if Andrew Bird were to score a film about a psychedelic circus. Watson's music also has a fresh and nocturnal air to it, and his new album, *Adventures in Your Own Backyard*, plays on the trope of simpler times to great effect. The album, dreamy and tonally rich, has been one of this spring's more underrated releases, and Watson is known for his fantastic live performances. East Coast musician Cat Martino, who is a unique and captivating songwriter in her own right, will open at The Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Sunday, June 10, 8 p.m., $19. GAMH.com — *Will Butler*

Lee Williams & the Spiritual QCs and The Aubrey Ghent Band

Lee Williams and the Spiritual QCs ("qualified Christians") are the top-drawing quartet in African American gospel music. The former Tupelo, Mississippi, truck driver sings calmly in a lightly raspy baritone, and his band, featuring the red-hot blues-infused guitar work of brothers Al and Patrick Hollis, works with the singers to create hypnotic moods, especially during the one-chord vamps that end most songs. Nashville-based lap steel guitarist Aubrey Ghent is one of the giants of the "sacred steel" tradition, and his screaming high-volume solos, which mimic the sounds of singing and train whistles, are known to drive congregations to peaks of Holy Ghost ecstasy. Both groups will appear, along with Tupelo's Golden Wings Quartet and Vallejo-born organ virtuoso Moses Tyson Jr., on Saturday, June 9, at Parks Chapel AME Church (476 34th St., Oakland), 5 and 7:30 p.m., $35-$40. Rexdiskrecords.com — *Lee Hildebrand*

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

KMEL Summer Jam with Nicki Minaj, Wiz Khalifa, Tyga, J. Cole, Eric Varner, Big Sean, Flo Rida, Wale, and Clyde Carson & The Team. Oracle Arena. 7:30 p.m. $23.50-$129.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Domingo de Afrocuba Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party. Cafe Valparaiso. 3:30-6:30 p.m. free.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

30th Annual San Francisco Free Folk Festival two full days of music and dance workshops, concerts, dance parties, crafts, vendors, rollicking jams and informal music making. Presidio Middle School. 12-10 p.m. free.

Poor Man's Poison with Bellhoss, Hotel Utah. 8 p.m. $5.

Ray Wylie Hubbard with Scott Randall, Cafe du Nord. 8 p.m. $17-$20.

Songwriter Sundays rising artists perform in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m.-midnight. $3.

Tony Savarino Johnny Foley's Irish House. 5 p.m. free.

Classical & Opera

Michael Abram on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $58 for brunch plus gratuity and tax.

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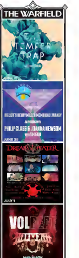
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Gospel Brunch with Future Boyz & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $39, includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rock of the Bay cabaret series, [illegible], 4 p.m., $30-$37, $65 with dinner and show

Josh Klipp and Der Klipperones Bliss Bar, 4:30 p.m., $10

Vince Lateano & Friends featuring Andrew Speight, Sam [illegible], & Mark [illegible], [illegible] Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

Elegant Trash with [illegible] Lovers, 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] Bazaar Cafe, 7 p.m., free

Patrick Sweany with Cat Uptone, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $12-$15

[illegible] Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 8 p.m., $32.50

[illegible] with [illegible] and Tails And Ways, [illegible], 9 p.m., $11

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

[illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m., $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Boom Boom Room, 8:30 p.m., $5

Tinariwen Herbst Theatre, 7:30 p.m., $30-$40

MONDAY 11

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] Tango Argentine tango, Caffe Trieste, 7-9 p.m., free

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] featuring [illegible], Laurie Lewis & the Right Hands, and Middle Ramblers, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50-$26.50

Uptown Hubba Hubba burlesque with Hubba Hubba Revue, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Cabin Keys 57th Street Gallery, 1 p.m., $5, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] and Pony Time, Hemlock Tavern, 6 p.m., $5

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] with [illegible], Delay, and Wild Moth, Bottom of the Hill, 8:45 p.m., $8

The 7 [illegible] with Ensemble Tango, [illegible] and Loud [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Lil' Kim with Micah [illegible], Ginger the Rapper, Lil Candle and Ms. [illegible], Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $25

TUESDAY 12

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 7:30 p.m., $8

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Jam Night with

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Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464
Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-4793
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2484
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Franklin St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
The Lounge 1511 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700
[illegible] 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677
[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2125 N. [illegible] St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2083
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344
Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121
[illegible] Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 2015 [illegible], Oakland, [illegible]
Piedmont Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, PiedmontCenterfortheArts.org
[illegible] 1725 [illegible] Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050
Radio 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-451-2889
Rhythmix Cultural Works 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060
The [illegible] 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4812
[illegible] Roadhouse 2700 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224
[illegible] [illegible] Rd., [illegible], 510-[illegible]
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159
[illegible] 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 130, San Ramon, [illegible]
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
[illegible] 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 1500 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, [illegible]
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5107
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174
Studio 1510 1510 8th St., Oakland
Subterranean Art Studio 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-[illegible]
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-[illegible]
Vitus 201 Broadway, Oakland, 510-452-1820
Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450
Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-[illegible]
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124

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Amours, Kerlos Bar & Grill 7:30-11 p.m. free

Fundraiser for Linda Tillery's New Rose featuring Tuck & Patti, Keith Terry, Ray Obiedo & Friends, Wayne Wallace Quintet, Faye Carol, Rebecca Mauleón and Molly Holm. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $44.50-$49.50

Sinead Healy Pican's Restaurant, 7:30-11 p.m., free

Tuesday Night Live Music This week: Oaktown Swing Band. Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 8 p.m., $5 suggested

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Tuesday Co. Featuring Different Drums III Diego Velardo, 8 p.m., $10

Eddie Palmer Duo with Ross Dudley, Cafe Rouge, 6:30 p.m., free

Help Thy Neighbor an EBBA benefit featuring Nick Gravenites, Barbara Dane, David K. Mathews, Kirk Walda & the Highlights, Steve Lucky, Carmen Getit, Mark Hummel, Steve Freund, and more. Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $30

Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley music school. Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

Rod Dibble Veteran jazz with guest vocalist singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Oceanography with SanTTor Collier and Jane Staffer, Vitus, 8 p.m., $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Dan Chandler spoken word event with [illegible], Tommy's Locker, 7 p.m., free

Innerspace Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Stompy Linda Verdi Club, 9:30 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ricardo Scales playing soft jazz tribute, Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 p.m., $5-$7

Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays retro jazz plus a swing dance lesson, Verdi Club, 9 p.m., $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Bingo + Umbrella Rock Chalet Brewery, 8:30 p.m., free

Emily Jane White with Tori Garza and Jon Poman, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$18

Here We Go Magic with Hardof, The Independent, 8 p.m., $13-$15

Leopold & His Fiction with Rusty Might, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $6

Dream Flats Habitat with Hawkins, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $5

Wild Dunes and the Caribbeans with The Mark Tapes, Milkshake Slim's, 7:30 p.m., $10

Rhapsody of Fire with Voyager, Slim's, 8 p.m., $21

Dawes with Ameoula As Leaders and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 7:30 p.m., $29.50

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

WEDNESDAY 13

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Rodney Crowell & Mary Karr with Stewart Smith, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50-$28.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Kann & the Sunset Blues Rooster's Roadhouse, 8:30 p.m., free

Jazz Theory Performance Class with Cell Lamsit 5708 Street Gallery, 6-8 p.m.

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m., free

Mission Gold Jazz Band Beer Park, 7-9 p.m., free

Rod Dibble Veteran jazz with guest vocalist singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Tarantino Nemous CT [illegible], Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $18-$16

Will Michels piano music, Caffe Colonial, 6-9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Sean Healey piano covers of classics, r&b, jazz & pop, Pican's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

The Gold Lions with Ride on a Crime Spree, Burn Back, and Nicole Kidman, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $5-$8

KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Big This! weekly local band showcase, The Uptown, 9:30 p.m., free

Open Night Spontaneous Lounge, 8 p.m., free

Municipal Waste with Sons of Blood, Black Tusk and Lecherous Gaze, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m., $12

Sex Alert & Mars Hotel Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Agape Noe Disco Volante, 8:30 p.m., $5

Caribbean Night with Reggae Flash and [illegible], Donkey's Locker, 7:10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rod [illegible] and the Brown Doves Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Chebbibaba with Gaucho & Michael Abraham, Amnesia, 7 p.m.

Gaucho with the Micah Nichols Session, Amnesia, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Buffalo Tooth with Lili Rosh, Pete Sons, and The Parmesan, Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $9

Collective Soul performing Voyage, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $28.50

Jail Weddings with The Fake Steps and The Cutter Maker, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $8

The Life and Times with Ume and Hikes, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $12

Tonefirst with In Letter Form and San Francisco, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Action Bronson with Fiction Cunning and Hawks, The Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m., $15-$17

[illegible] Bronson Dance party with Billy Magic Presents "Get Down" Road Mixes and Kevin "The Wizard" Wong, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $5

Rapsody 4 Tay with Mac Mall, Fay Luv, Spice 1 and Sellaplo (Super Breed Celebrate), Mezzanine, 8 p.m., $20-$25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Clarke and his Bosom Latin, flamenco, Mediterranean & contemporary folk; Pete Pachamama, 8 p.m., $12 ●

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

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A presentation on *Immigrants in Hip Hop* by **Jeff Chang** and panel discussion with the & ARTivists from Dreams Vs Walls
A concert follows featuring **Raw-G, Ariel Lucky, Favi, Erwa Efla, DJ Leydis, Steele, Rico Pabon, DJ Juliele** Hosted by **Jada Simone** with live paintings by **Desi Wome** & photography by **Morgan Parrick.**
Presentation & Panel 7pm 8pm $5 (Free with tix to concert).
Concert. 9pm $10 adv $12 dr

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FRI & SAT 6/8 & 6/9
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THE SWELLERS · YOUNG STATUES

THURS. JUNE 7 · $25 ADV/$25 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
MICKEY AVALON
MILLIONAIRES
DIRT

FRI. JUNE 8 · $22 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 8 · SHOW 9
FACE TO FACE
THE DOWNTOWN STRUTS

SAT. JUNE 9 · $21 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
THRASHER PRESENTS
CORROSION OF CONFORMITY
TORCHE
BLACK COBRA · [illegible]

TUES. JUNE 12 · $27 ADV/$27 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
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FRI. JUNE 15 · WALK OFF THE EARTH · SOLD OUT!

WED. JUNE 20 · $31 ADV/$31 DOOR · DOORS 7, SHOW 8
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FRI. JUNE 22 · $14 ADV/$16 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
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SAT. JUNE 23 · $16 ADV/$16 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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JD McPHERSON
TOSHIO HIRANO

FRI. JUNE 8 · $13 ADV/$13 DOOR · DOORS 7:30 · SHOW 8
[illegible] PRESENTS
TORNADO RIDER · BATTLEHOOCH
KILL MOI
SPORTING LIFE · DJ WHAT'S HIS F*UK

SAT. JUNE 9 · $12 ADV/$15 DOOR · DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8:30
SHELBY ASH PRESENTS [illegible] · HILLBILLY MUSIC & BURLESQUE SHOW
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[illegible] · [illegible] · HOT PINK FEATHERS

SUN. JUNE 10 · $18 ADV/$18 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
PATRICK WATSON
CAT MARTINO

FRI. JUNE 15 · $15 ADV/$17 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
PERFORMER MAGAZINE PRESENTS
MONOPHONICS
FANNY FRANKLIN

SAT. JUNE 16 · $21 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
POPSCENE PRESENTS
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DEVIN

WED. JUNE 20 · $23 ADV/$23 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
JONATHAN COULTON WITH FULL BAND
JOHN RODERICK (OF THE LONG WINTERS)

THURS. JUNE 21 · $30 ADV/$30 DOOR
DOORS 7 · SHOW 8 · SEATED SHOW
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JOE HENRY

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[illegible] PRESENTS
SEAN PATTON
DAVID GBORIE, CLARE O'KANE, AMY MILLER (HOST), [illegible]

FRIDAY 6/08
[illegible] PRESENT
GEORGIA ANNE MULDROW WITH DUDLEY PERKINS
[illegible]

SUNDAY 6/10
[illegible] PRESENTS
WHITE LUNG
[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 6/13
THE HOOT HOOTS
[illegible]

FRIDAY 6/15
[illegible] PRESENTS
SARAH JAFFE
[illegible]

SUNDAY 6/17
[illegible] PRESENT
AB SOUL
[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 6/20
[illegible] PRESENT
KID INK
[illegible]

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FRI 6/15
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SAT 6/16
SPREAD
[illegible]

[illegible]

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JUNE 16TH
BATTALION OF SAINTS & O.D.
FANG & SOCIAL UNREST
JUNE 22ND
CHOP TOPS
JUNE 23RD
SIX FEET UNDER
DYING FETUS
REVOCATION
JUNE 30TH
BRAINOIL
PERMANENT RUIN
WHITEHORSE
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[illegible] hip-hop, reggae & dancehall
SAT 10PM SMOOVE SATURDAYS DJ SAKE 1 [illegible] & DJ OUMA
[illegible] hip hop, neo soul & world flavors
SUN 9PM POLYGENRIC! DJ ADEBISI MAXIMAAL, DONGUAPO
[illegible] exploration of musical movement [illegible]
MON 9PM THREE DAY WEEKEND DJ PROZACK TURNER [illegible]
[illegible]
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DJ DANCE

EAST BAY

THURSDAY 7

Academy Night w/ DJ and Wilbur B, spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $3; spinning free w/ valid ID

Club Fever w/ Sound Bwoy Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free

Dyno Club w/ DJs Rod Radio & Club Fox, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

Delicious Thursdays Kimba, 10 p.m., free

DJ Addi spinning eclectic ear candy, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

DJ Dance The Layover, 9 p.m., free

DJ Trick spinning lounge, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Drop Top Disco w/ Salvatore Valentino, Madame Computer & Jay Sense, The Layover, 9 p.m., free

Club w/ resident DJ Ahmad and weekly guests, [illegible], 9 p.m., $8

High Life w/ DJ Matthew Africa, The Layover, 10 p.m., free

Jungle Boogie w/ Ivan Prizem, Isaacstyle and Uncle Joe, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

NOT HOT indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, [illegible], 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Spree Night w/ DJ Lady T, [illegible], Venue's Bar & Grill, 9 p.m., $10

Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$10

Temple of Boom w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Ital Roll Tha Drop featuring DJ Tamon spinning '70s & '80s jazz, [illegible], 8 p.m., free

Yoruba Dance Sessions spinning DJs Carlos Mena and Cool [illegible] and Bar, 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 8

Bro Jam w/ DJs [illegible] and the Friends spinning free rags and slow jams, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

spinning w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the [illegible] music in the Bay Area, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $8

Deejays, Dames & Dancing DJ Nabil & special guests spinning bass heavy fun and electro, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., free

Evolve Dad Squash featuring DJ Soul Saucers, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., $15

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $6

Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ Stand K, [illegible], 10 p.m., $5

Happy Down w/ DJ Sheldon Grant spinning punk, rock, indie & garage rock, The Missouri Lounge, 9-10 p.m., free

Hip-Hop House Dance w/ [illegible] DJ, Club 1220, 9 p.m., $6

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Gallego spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop & house, [illegible] and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8-$15

addiction weekly in-house DJ guests, [illegible] Music, 10 p.m., free

Mighty Irie DJs Rocker-T, Irie Dole & Smoke One spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Old School hip-hop and funk, [illegible], 9 p.m., free

Ondas Night w/ DJ Electro spinning reggae, salsa, & R&B, [illegible] Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Active [illegible] pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Stump Fridays DJ Lamb & Fat Roth spin R&B & soul, [illegible], 8 p.m., $6

Tonality w/ DJ Jeff Pryant spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, punk, new wave & rock 'n' roll, Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free

[illegible] Drop History spinning DJ Tropic spinning [illegible] bass, samba, merengue, Weekend reggae, bhangra, [illegible] music, & more, Congo Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 9

All Productions & Freestyle DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop, Fixed, 10 p.m., free

Angel Magik DJs Fuan, Joh Neo Fiber, Young Fyah & guests spin hip-hop, reggae & dancehall, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10

The Black Tent [illegible] by Sean Kennedy, [illegible], 2 p.m., free

Club Bloodset DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae & hip-hop, Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $10

Club Blowout w/ DJ [illegible] and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, [illegible] and Bar, 9 p.m., $8 before 11 p.m.

Spinning Saturdays [illegible] by hip-hop & house at midnight, Club 1220, 9:30 p.m.-midnight, $5

Dancehall Saturdays w/ [illegible] Roots spinning reggae, Weekend & hip-hop, The Avenue, 9 p.m., free

Deejay Lady Ryan [illegible], 4:30 p.m., $8

Deejays, Oldies & Dancing DJ Kalid & guests, guests spinning bass heavy fun and electro, spinning Down Low, 9 p.m., free

"The Groove Side of Soul" soulful dance music w/ DJs [illegible] Cali and Rico Sol, plus live art and video projections, La Estrellita Cafe, 9:30 p.m., free

OSOS w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], La Estrellita Cafe, 9:30 p.m., free

Bones & Sexy [illegible] w/ DJs spinning reggae, [illegible] & hip-hop, New Karibbean City, 9 p.m., $15

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible], White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $8

La Onda [illegible] night w/ DJs spinning salsa, merengue, & [illegible] plus hot go-go [illegible], Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15

Magic Milk Dance DJ [illegible] & guests host groove-surfing extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Latino Latin Night DJ [illegible] spins [illegible], merengue, cumbia, vallenato, reggaeton, reggae en español, & and more, Congo Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the Stooges to Michael [illegible], Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Sabbath Saturdays classic hip-hop, neo soul & [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $8 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Soul Sandwich w/ [illegible] & [illegible] Girls spinning soul, funk, & boogie, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Dance Oldies DJs [illegible] old-school hip-hop, funky soul, [illegible] & more, Oldies 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Warm-Up w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B, The Missouri Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free

SUNDAY 10

DJ Ready Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

King of Kings DJ Smoke One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & lovers' rock, Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10

Mojo w/ DJ guests spinning soul, funk, & Hispanic old-school, Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Polygenric! DJs [illegible], [illegible] & MaxiMaal host a weekly multi-genre exploration of musical movement, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Soul Sanctuary Dance Community Dance Share [illegible], Ashkenaz, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., donations accepted

Uncle Fee's Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady & early reggae, The [illegible] Club, 2 p.m., free

MONDAY 11

Spinning Fight Soul featuring the [illegible], [illegible] New Parish, 10 p.m., $6

Three-Day Weekend DJ Prozack Turner spinning hip-hop, R&B & [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

Underground Lounge psycho '60s & garage '70s music, [illegible], 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJ K-Tel spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 12

Spinning House Night plus line dancing, Club 1220, 9 p.m., free

DJ Down Down Money spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave & more, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

DJ Wanty spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Escape college night featuring DJ Speedy & DJ Krazy, Club 21, 9 p.m., free

Ino Oops Spins Vinyl [illegible], 9 p.m., free

SoulFyah DJ Juan G, [illegible] spinning reggae & world beats, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 13

Bojinah [illegible], 9 p.m., free

Hump Day w/ DJs Jet & [illegible], The Missouri Lounge, 11 p.m.-2 a.m., free

The Jet Set w/ DJ Santero and guests, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

Kinetic Sandwich w/ DJ Foo Dog, The Layover, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] Night featuring Last Angry Manny spinning metal vinyl and more, Merchant's Saloon, 9 p.m., free

Oldies Off [illegible] by DJ [illegible], AIP Lounge, 9-10 p.m.

Percussion Latin cowboy night w/ [illegible], Bench and Bar, 7 p.m., $8-$15

Oldies Punk, indie, new wave, & classic rock w/ DJ [illegible] Money, Ruby Room, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

Slippery Wet Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ, [illegible], 10 p.m., free

PICKS

Flex Thursdays

The sound of an air horn might be the most obvious signifier in dancehall, but a truly nimble and confident DJ will use it sparingly. In fact, such sounds are judiciously understated in — and sometimes conspicuously absent from — the mixes of DJ Hanouz, a local reggae connoisseur who has helmed nightlife events in the Bay Area for fifteen years. His current offering, *Flex Thursdays*, features an internationally flavored mix of dancehall, reggae, soca, and hip-hop riddims, all blended into a seamless, polyrhythmic soundtrack. It's one of the few world music DJ nights in a town that generally leans toward more conventional "urban music," and the residents all have street cred. Hanouz spins alongside DJs Fein and Young Fyah, whose names have gained currency at *Reggae Gold* and *Angel Magik*, respectively. Flex Thursdays happen at Air Lounge (492 9th St., Oakland), 9 p.m., free. AirOakland.com — *Rachel Swan*

AQUARIUM AGE

TALK IT OUT

For the week of June 6-12, 2012.

By Raffee Finn

A steady hum of conversation underscores almost every activity of this life this week. But because so much is being said by so many, you'll have to listen carefully to catch the important information. It's not that these conversations are generally disruptive, although some of them could be seen that way. It's that they are packed with so much information that even the most fearless of data gatherers and processors are apt to get dizzy from simply trying to keep track. Some of us may feel bombarded by a deluge of the trivial, while others will find themselves listening with sensitive ears to pick up the deeper subtext.

Whenever you find yourself listening along this frequency, do your best to find a neutral internal stance that allows you to hear without necessarily reacting to or judging what's being said. Some of these conversations are nervous interactions meant to fill time. In some instances, you or those close to you could simply be discharging, oblivious to the power of words. At other times, some of us might simply be thinking out loud, which could be disconcerting for both the speaker and the listener if either one takes what's said too seriously. And of course there will also be cases of serious heart to heart exchanges that will move the soul to a new, expansive understanding of just how complex it is to be a spirit in the material world.

The source of this celestial emphasis on conversation is a concentration of planets in Gemini, the Sign of communication. Although the astronomical transit of Venus is behind us, from an astrological perspective we're still in the midst of a Sun/Venus conjunction that lasts until June 11. When the Sun and Venus share the same space, their perfect marriage blends the illumination of spirit with individual values. Anticipate lots of talk about what matters most, and why. Also expect that many of these conversations will veer into discussions on a wide range of subjects from the financial to the spiritual and everything in between. Anticipate plenty of opinions, whether or not the "opinionator" is qualified to assess the situation. Of course that seems to be the standard these days; do your best to be patient as you attempt to correct the facts.

Jupiter is the other contributor to the chatter, idle or otherwise. It enters Gemini on June 11, and its presence is certain to set tongues wagging on every subject imaginable. Jupiter is the planet of expansion, and even though that will scatter the topics of conversation over a broad spectrum, because it also symbolizes the search for truth, many communiqués are also sure to be thoughtful.

Much of what's said will also be funny. Among its many meanings, Jupiter also signifies humor, so be prepared for the laughs to be plentiful. And that's a good thing, given the serious undertone of the Uranus/Pluto square — but more about that next week.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Jupiter is moving into your Solar House of communication, making words even more powerful than they were last week. Strong urges to say more than necessary could cause problems, so stay circumspect.

TAURUS When Jupiter enters Gemini you enter an entirely new financial cycle. This happens every twelve years. Contemplate what's shifted since then, and integrate that information into future choices.

GEMINI Get ready to get talking, and don't worry about talking too much — Jupiter is taking the lead and there's simply no way to hold back. Not everyone will listen, but that doesn't matter — you're gonna say it anyway.

CANCER Jupiter mines your Solar House of psyche, opening a wide portal to your imagination. Rather than allowing that opening to stimulate your anxieties, use its presence to spark your spiritual search.

LEO Jupiter is opening new doors that could make you feel increasingly optimistic about making more of a contribution to your community. Follow this lead, and you won't be disappointed in the results.

VIRGO As Jupiter moves to your Solar House of career, opportunities for expansion and success should increase. Be prepared for positive opportunities that speak to your heart's desire.

LIBRA Jupiter reinforces what you're already experiencing as a strong desire to explore. Again, it doesn't matter whether these horizons are internal or external; what matters is that you seize the moment.

SCORPIO Jupiter enters your Solar House of transformation, and its presence is sure to put you through a few changes. Rather than resent the shifts, welcome them with a smile — Jupiter tends to provoke growth through humor.

SAGITTARIUS The relationship beat goes on as Jupiter moves into your Solar House of partnership. Although the beginning of this transit could be bumpy, you just might find yourself enjoying the ride.

CAPRICORN Jupiter moves into your Solar House of service, so don't be surprised if you feel a strong desire to contribute your time and energy to a noble cause. Just be sure to choose an endeavor that brings you joy.

AQUARIUS Lucky you. Jupiter enters your Solar House of creativity, self-expression and romance. There's no need to limit its influence to one area, which means you can use its expansive reach to have as much fun as possible.

PISCES Jupiter enters your Solar House of the home, and whether you experience its presence internally or externally, where you live is sure to be the place where you want to hunker down and get cozy. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-837-9284 write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Raffee Finn

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SAVAGE LOVE

BEAR NECESSITIES

Plus fumbling virgins and peeping Toms.

By Dan Savage

Could you tell my boy to calm the heck down? Can't seem to get him to get the difference between bestiality necrophilia and screwin a bearskin rug.

I'm a gay man and a hunter; he's a gay boy and a vegan. But he likes how I look in my camo holding a rifle, so it works. Last fall I went to Idaho and shot a black bear and a thirteen-point buck. A taxidermist mounted the buck's head, which hangs above my bed, and made the bear into a rug. Most people don't know this, but the head on a bearskin rug is entirely fake except for the fur. The skull, teeth, and tongue are plastic, and the eyes are glass. That bear's not a bear, if you catch me.

So we got the rug, and he liked it. Even wanted me to screw him spread-eagle on that rug — until he walked in while I was doing it with the bear. I rigged up the mouth with one of those Fleshlight things, pretty much as a joke, but my boy freaked out when he saw the bear giving me a blowjob of sorts. Called me sick and disgusting, and ever since then, he won't let me tie him up or beat him or anything. He says he's afraid I will kill him and then screw him. I keep telling him it was all just a game, but he won't believe it. What can I do?

Bear Ground Anyway

What can you do? You mean besides send video of you and your bear in action to prove this isn't the most entertaining fake letter I've received since Michelle Obama invited me to dinner at Sarah Jessica Parker's apartment? What can you do besides that?

You can do this: You can draw a distinction between what was going on in that bear's mouth when your boyfriend walked in and what was going on in your head. When a man beats off — with or without a Fleshlight-enhanced bearskin rug — two things are kinda/sorta happening simultaneously: what the man is doing with his dick and what the man is imagining he's doing with his dick.

So your boyfriend walked in and saw you fucking the face of a dead bear. That's gonna look bad, BGA, even to a boyfriend who isn't vegan. So how do you fix it? By patiently explaining to your vegan boyfriend that while, yes, you were face-fucking a bear when he walked in on you — there's no denying that — you weren't thinking about face-fucking a bear. Tell him you were thinking about him and the bear's mouth was just a convenient place to wedge your vegan-boyfriend-substitute, i.e., your Fleshlight. Tell your boyfriend you don't entertain any murderous fantasies; tell him you only long to fuck living things; and tell him that *Homo sapiens* are the only animals you find attractive.

Tell him all of that, BGA, even if not all of that is entirely true.

I'm a seventeen-year-old male and I'm currently in a relationship with a girl who was "sexually active" before we got together. Me, being a virgin, I think you can understand why I might be nervous when things get heated. I would like to engage in the act with her eventually, but I don't know if she wants a virgin fumbling around in bed with her. And it's not particularly manly to go to someone and honestly say "I'm not going to be good at this for a while." Not exactly a turn-on. I feel she's ahead of me in experience. What advice would you give me?

Nervous Entirely Wrecking Boy

If your girlfriend is close to you in age, NEWB, the odds that she's any good at sex are vanishingly slim, her prior sexual activity notwithstanding. Some people have a knack for sex, of course, but almost all teenagers are lousy at sex. Trust me, NEWB: I was a teenager once, a teenager who slept with other teenagers, and I was lousy at sex and so were they.

Now here's my advice: Chill the fuck out. Presumably your girlfriend likes you, NEWB, and knows you're a virgin. Which means she knows you'll be a little nervous the first time you two have sex — the first time you have sex — and that there's probably going to be some fumbling. But you wanna know a secret? Even sexually experienced adults — even adults who are really good at sex and have had tons of it — still get nervous, NEWB, and there's no such thing as sex without some fumbling.

As for your concerns about seeming less than manly: You're bringin' the dick, NEWB, so you're the man. Your nerves won't render you dickless. If you're worried about displaying a manly confidence, well, you can still do that. Go into your first sexual experience confident that your girlfriend is into you and confident that she wants you, and be honestly and unapologetically who you are. Being yourself is far more manly than pretending to be someone or something you're not, NEWB, and there's nothing less manly than passing out on a new experience for fear of appearing unmanly. Honest nerves are manlier than false bravado.

One last thing to do before you lose your virginity: Watch a weekend marathon of *16 and Pregnant* on MTV. That show will inspire you to use condoms religiously and correctly, NEWB, every single time. Even if your girlfriend is or claims to be using hormonal birth control, wrap your manly ol' dick up before you slide it inside.

Following up on the letter about masturbating in the privacy of a public toilet stall: Guys are being banned from Multnomah County libraries in Portland, Oregon, for wanking in the supposed privacy of locked bathroom stalls. Facilities security officers peep through spaces between stall doors and write up reports that go into detail about "shiny liquids" spotted on offenders' hands, and those who are caught are excluded from the libraries for a year. Victorian prudery lives!

Wanking In Private Environs

The letter writer who got caught wanking in a public toilet had taken pains to find an empty men's restroom on a deserted floor of an office building. He wanted to have his midday wank, WIPE, without disturbing or unnerving others. I don't think the same could be said for the men who are rubbing em out in the toilets of Portland's Central Library.

Guys who get off in public toilets because they get off on public toilets are forcing other people to serve as props in their masturbatory fantasies. And that ain't cool. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage
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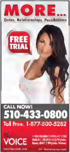
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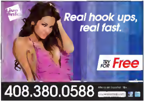
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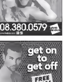

APN: 049-1082-[illegible] TS No: CA07000140-12-1 TO No: [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]/2009. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 7/2/2012 at 12:00 PM, At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 04/0[illegible]/2009 as Instrument No. 2009104029 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by SARA WOODS AND ROBERT WOODS, WIFE AND HUSBAND AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1012 44TH STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $440,337.79 (Estimated) provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. DATE: 5/30/2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA07000140-12-1 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Erik Aguilar, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.priorityposting.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-573-1965 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call telephone number for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case CA07000140-12-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. P954099 6/6, 6/13, 06/20/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No.: 20110015004623 Title Order No.: 110432861 FHA/VA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 05/11/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 06/19/2007 as Instrument No. 2007228964 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: ZENA R LONG, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 06/20/2012 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 871 55TH ST, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: 014-1196-031 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $440,634.31. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.lpsasap.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 20110015004623. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES & POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.lpsasap.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 05/31/2012 A-4251992 06/06/2012, 06/13/2012, 06/20/2012

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